



Maharashtra Ahead

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HUGE RELIEF TO FARMERS



**Mahatma Jotirao Phule
Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme**

An Easy, Simple and Transparent Loan Waiver Scheme to Give Relief to Farmers



HUGE RELIEF TO FARMERS



Mahatma Jotirao Phule
Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme

Loan Waiver to Farmers with Crop Loan up to ₹2 lakh

- No need to apply.
- No conditions laid for repaying outstanding amount.

Benefits to Farmers

Outstanding dues of short-term crop loan as on September 30, 2019 and short-term crop loan taken between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2019 as also the short-term restructured crop loan will be waived

Benefits of debt relief to be extended to every farmer unconditionally

Loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh to each farmer; the State Government to credit the amount directly to the farmer's bank account

The crop loans taken from nationalised banks, commercial banks, district central cooperative banks, rural banks, and various multipurpose cooperative institutions to be waived

Farmers should connect their Aadhaar number to their bank loan account number and get it verified

**An Easy, Simple and
Transparent Loan Waiver
Scheme to Give Relief
to Farmers**



Uddhav Thackeray
Chief Minister



Ajit Pawar
Deputy Chief Minister



Balasaheb Thorat
Hon'ble Minister



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LOAN WAIVER FOR FARMERS

The Government of Maharashtra, in its latest initiatives, has waived off crop loans up to ₹2 lakh outstanding till 30 September 2019, giving relief to farmers affected by adverse climate and production problems. The Government has also announced a programme to make available food at a reasonable rate of ₹10, to be first available in all district headquarters of the State as a pilot. The announcements made by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the Nagpur Legislative Assembly were given approval in the cabinet meeting held soon after.

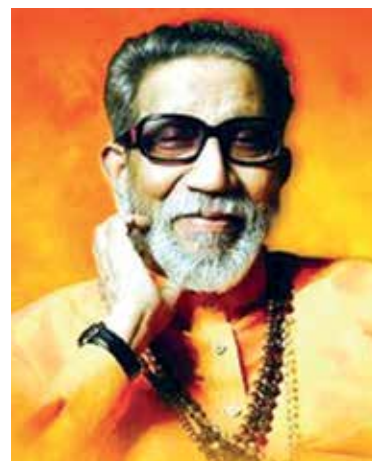
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OUR NEW MINISTERS

On 30 December 2019, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray expanded his council of ministers. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of Deputy Chief Minister to Ajit Pawar and other 25 Ministers and 10 Ministers of State at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai.



Ajit Pawar taking the oath as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra from Honourable Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.



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THE CHARISMATIC LEGEND

On his birth anniversary, we pay tribute to Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray, one of the tallest and multifaceted personalities of Maharashtra.

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SHIVNERI, MAHARASHTRA'S PRIDE

The moment a Maharashtra enters any fort that is related to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one tends to slip into the State's glorious past, more so in the case of Shivneri, the fort where Shivraya was born. The fort enjoys special status amongst all the other forts related to him.



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Directorate General of Information and Public Relations,
Government of Maharashtra

CHIEF MINISTER APPLAUDS LOKRAJYA

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was mighty pleased on reading the rare editions of the monthly Marathi publication.

Lokrajya has been an influencing factor for the people of Maharashtra for the past 71 years. The different editions of the Marathi monthly, published time after time, are not only worth collecting, but also make for good reference material for various subjects. These special issues have always been in demand among the masses. Every year, a special exhibition of these rare issues is held in Nagpur during the winter session of the State Legislature. This year too, the exhibition of the rare issues of the monthly mouthpiece of Government of Maharashtra, *Lokrajya* was held in the premises of the Vidhan Bhavan in Nagpur. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited the exhibition and went through a few editions. He expressed satisfaction on the content of the magazine. He also appreciated the efforts of the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations behind organising the exhibition. He was of the opinion that these rare editions should be preserved and made available to youth to read and get inspired. Member of the Parliament Sanjay Raut was also present at the exhibition.



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray reading the rare editions of *Lokrajya*. Member of Parliament Sanjay Raut was also present on the occasion.

NEW YEAR, NEW DREAMS, NEW RESOLVE



Jayant Patil
Hon'ble Minister

I am extremely delighted to extend my best wishes for the New Year to the people of Maharashtra through this edition of *Maharashtra Ahead*.

Maharashtra has become a democratic State in the true sense with the formation of the new Government of Maha Vikas Aghadi. The Government has already paved the way for Maharashtra's growth and development.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi Government is all geared up to work diligently to fulfil the aspirations of its people.

In the past few years, our farmers have faced many challenges, some natural and some due to other factors that have distressed them a lot. Increasing production costs and shrinking incomes have pushed them into financial crisis. Since ours is an agrarian economy, their despair is deplorable, considering these hands not only run the ploughs, but also our economy. It's only when the plough in their hands runs consistently, farming can thrive, flourish and come alive, giving the rest of us a new lease of life too! Hence, our paramount duty is to strengthen their ability and resolve. With this in mind, we have made farmers our top-most priority and have started the work from the day one. In our very first Cabinet meeting, we decided to implement the Mahatma Jotirao Phule Loan Waiver Scheme under which loans up to ₹2 lakh will be waived off. We have ensured that the scheme is not complicated but is transparent, simple and hassle-free. The farmers will not have to go through unnecessary paperwork and can avail the benefits easily.

Very soon we are going to launch the Shiv Bhojan Thali scheme on an experimental basis. It will offer healthy meals at just ₹10. After reviewing the response, we will launch it all over Maharashtra.

We are focused on planning and implementing vari-

ous policies and schemes for social welfare and improving the quality of the day-to-day life of people. The implementation of these schemes will be done effectively and in a timely manner.

Due to its richness and prosperity, Maharashtra is rightly considered the jewel in India's crown. Our State also leads on various fronts and has a rich legacy of leaders like Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule and Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, to name a few. Our aim is to build a new Maharashtra that will be socially united and economically fair to everyone. We want to build a State that will generate new educational opportunities for its youth and create numerous opportunities in industrialised employment and self-employment for its people. The formation of Maha Vikas Aghadi Government is the first step in that direction.

Our emphasis is on removing all the hurdles in the path of growth and development and making necessary processes fast and transparent. All-inclusiveness will

be our forte. We believe that the people of the State should get equal opportunities and rights. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that every person in Maharashtra enjoys all basic and constitutional rights they are entitled to.

Of course, to achieve this, the support of the people is equally important. For this, the Government will have to carefully and strictly plan and manage available resources. And at

times we may have to take some tough decisions. Such decisions are taken only in the interest of the State and the well-being of its people. We can achieve every goal with mutual understanding and cooperation.

As we embark on this New Year, let us all join hands and pledge to take Maharashtra to newer pinnacles of success.

I hope you will like this issue of *Maharashtra Ahead*.

Once again wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Jayant Patil
Guest Editor





Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Minister, Finance and Planning Jayant Patil, Minister, Home, Eknath Shinde being felicitated by farmers.

LOAN WAIVER FOR FARMERS

Following the untimely rainfall in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, during his visit to the farmers' fields, had promised to relieve them from debt and worry. While facing the floor test in the State Legislative Assembly, he kept his promise to work for the benefit of farmers and announced a farm loan-waiver of up to ₹2 lakh. He has also arranged for affordable food provision for the labour class by announcing the Shiv Bhojan thali priced at ₹10 only. He made it clear that the State administration will run according to the ideals of the welfare state of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The announcements made during the legislative assembly were given approval in the cabinet meeting soon after.



Maharashtra has about one crore 53 lakh farmers and most of them depend on farming, for which at some time or other they take loans from district central co-operative banks or commercial banks. From 2015 to 2018-19, a drought-like situation prevailed in the State, leading to less than 50 per cent paisewari. After the drought-like situation, farmers were affected by untimely rains. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was of the firm opinion that farmers should get immediate help from the State Government. The Chief Minister visited the farmers' fields to take review of the crop loss.

FULFILLING ASSURANCE

Soon after taking the oath of office, Uddhav Thackeray said that the Government will give topmost priority to support

farmers by offering them relief. He insisted on this during the floor test as well, and emphasised that the Government's aim is to work for the all-round development of farmers. He also stated that even though loan waiver is one of the measures taken to solve farmers' problems, which he ensured will be provided, making the farmer worry-free by implementing various schemes for the development of the farming sector and farmers is also part of the agenda. He has also directed the concerned to speedily complete the crop insurance cases, while ensuring that not a single farmer faces injustice.

While making an announcement of the farm loan-waiver scheme in the winter session of the State Legislative Assembly, Nagpur, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray assured that the Government will take decisions for the benefit of farmers. In the cabinet meeting, he also approved the plan of Mahatma Jotirao Phule Shetkari Karj Mukti Yojana (Farmer Loan-Waiver Scheme).

BENEFIT OF LOAN WAIVER

According to Mahatma Jotirao Phule Shetkari Karj Mukti Yojana, if the arrears and the unpaid loan amount are less than ₹2 lakh in more than one account for the short-term crop loan taken between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2019 and short-term restructured crop loan till 30 September 2019, then all such accounts will be given the benefit of loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh. It has been estimated that lakhs of farmers will benefit from this scheme. Most importantly, while offering loan waiver, the land ownership of the farmers will not be taken into consideration, which means that apart from small landowners who will receive the benefit of the scheme, farmers who are not small landowners will also benefit.

According to the loan waiver scheme, if the arrears and the unpaid loan amount along with the principal and the interest amount are more than ₹2 lakh till 30 September 2019 for the short-term crop loan accounts and short-term restructured crop loan accounts, then the information regarding such loan accounts will be demanded from the banks, following which efforts will be made to provide relief to such farmers through a proper, suitable scheme.

Similarly, to provide encouragement to the farmers, who regularly repay their short-term crop loan amount, a new scheme will be announced soon.

A farmer is the backbone of the rural economy. Hence the policy of the new Government is focused on bringing agriculture-centric development. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray paid special attention to all the aspects related to farming during a meeting to take an overview of Vidarbha. Along with strengthening the purchase system of farm produce, it is the policy of the Government to rid the farmer of other aspects such as irrigation and financial deficits.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed that while implementing the loan waiver scheme is a great responsibility

ity for the revenue machinery, the concerned officials should treat the farmers with affection and respect.

LIST OF ACCOUNTS

The loan accounts that have not been linked with Aadhaar will be published by 7 January 2020. The farmers can get their accounts linked with Aadhaar afterwards.



Now, the Internet will not be required to verify Aadhaar. The farmers from inaccessible locations without Internet facilities can complete their Aadhaar verification and other matters from an Aaple Sarkar Centre in the villages nearby. The Chief Minister has issued orders that bus facilities to and from the centres will be available to farmers so that they do not have to make unnecessary trips.

LOAN ON 7/12 REDUCED

It is essential that farmers are aware about the initiative and the district administration should arrange for ways to carry this information to farmers through various media. The accounts of the farmers should be linked with Aadhaar. Under the supervision of the District Collector, the information should be uploaded to the portal. Biometric facilities should be made available in remote, inaccessible regions. The Chief Minister suggested that the village-level administration should accept this responsibility and, under the control of the District Collector, reduce the loan on 7/12 extracts of the farmers, who are free from loans.

SHIV BHOJAN THALI FOR ₹10

The Government of Maharashtra has given approval for implementing Shiv Bhojan scheme in the State to ensure that poor and needy citizens can get a meal at an affordable rate.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was insistent upon implementing this scheme. Accordingly, it was approved in the State Cabinet meeting that the Shiv Bhojan will be provided in every district at ₹10 only. It is expected that the State Government will incur an expenditure of ₹6,48,00,000 in three months to start the scheme on an experimental basis.

This Government stands firmly with poor people of the State. It has brought the Shiv Bhojan scheme to ensure that nobody remains hungry in a progressive and modern State like Maharashtra. In the first phase of the implementation of the scheme, on a pilot basis, the Government has approved minimum one eatery at every site of the district headquarters and maximum 500 plates in every eatery. Depending on the response, the scheme will be implemented in other parts of the State.

WHAT WILL THE THALI HAVE?

The Shiv Bhojan meal will include two chapattis (30 grams each), one bowl of vegetable (100 grams), one bowl of rice (150 grams) and one bowl of dal curry (100 grams). These eateries

will be open from 12 noon to 2 pm.

In the first phase, the pilot project of Shiv Bhojan thali will be carried out in the headquarters of each district of Maharashtra. The Government has approved starting a maximum of 500 thalis in each kitchen of the district headquarters. The thali will cost ₹50 in urban areas and ₹35 in rural areas. Based on the feedback of the pilot project, the scheme will be implemented in other parts of the State.

AVAILABILITY OF SUBSIDY

The rate of a Shiv Bhojan plate will be ₹50 in urban areas and ₹35 in rural areas. Apart from the amount of ₹10 from customer, the remaining amount will be given in the form of subsidy from this department to the district officer directly, through whom it will be distributed to the concerned persons. The subsidy will be ₹40 per plate in urban areas and ₹25 per plate in rural areas.

WHO CAN START THE EATERY?

A person who wants to start Shiv Bhojana-laya should have his own suitable place. To participate in the scheme, eateries that are efficient and currently in operation will be selected. These may include a diner, women self-help group, eatery, restaurant and non-government institutions. A committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the district officer at the Municipal Corporation level and tehsildar at the taluka level. The plates will be sold at places where the poor and labourers are present in high numbers, such as district hospitals, bus-stops, places around railway stations, markets and Government offices.

—Team Lokrajya



Ajit Pawar taking the oath as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra from Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

OUR NEW MINISTERS

On 30 December 2019, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray expanded his council of ministers. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari administered the oath of Deputy Chief Minister to Ajit Pawar and other 25 Ministers and 10 Ministers of State at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai.

Ajit Anantrao Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister

Born: 22 July 1959

Place of Birth: Devlali-Pravara, taluka Rahuri, Ahmednagar

Education: B.Com **Languages known:** Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Sunetra **Children:**

Two (sons) **Occupation:** Agriculture, **Party:** Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 201-Baramati, Pune

Other information: Trustee, Vidya Pratishthan, Baramati; Director, Chhatrapati Shikshan Sanstha, Bhawaninagar, Indapur; Director, Shri Chhatrapati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Bhawaninagar, Malegaon Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana and Someshwar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Pune; Director, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sangh, Mumbai, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune; March-August 1991 and December 1994 to December 1998, Chairman, Pune District Central Co-operative Bank; 11 December 1998-17 October 1999, Chairman, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Bank, Mumbai; Director, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Doodh Utpadak Sangh since 19 December 2005; Chairman, Pune Zilla Shikshan Mandal since 28 September 2006; September 2005-23 March 2013; Chairman, Maharashtra Rajya Kabaddi Association; from 13 August 2006, Chairman, Maharashtra Rajya Kho-Kho Association; Member, Lok Sabha, 17 June-18 September 1991; Member,

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 1991-95 (bye-election), 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; 28 June 1991-November 1992: Minister of State for Agriculture, Horticulture and Power; November 1992-February 1993: Minister of State for Water Conservation, Power and Planning; 27 October 1999-25 December 2003, Minister, Irrigation (Krishna Valley and Konkan Irrigation Corporations) and Horticulture; 26 December 2003-31 October 2004: Minister, Rural Development, Water Supply and Sanitation, and Irrigation (Krishna Valley and Konkan Irrigation Corporations); 9 November 2004-7 November 2009: Minister for Water Resources (except Krishna Valley and Konkan Irrigation Corporations), Watershed Development, Water Supply and Sanitation; 7 November 2009-9 November 2010: Minister for Water Resources (except Krishna Valley and Konkan Irrigation Corporations) and Energy; 11 November 2010-September 2014: Dy. Chief Minister of Maharashtra (Finance and Planning and Energy); re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019; Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, 23-26 November 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan

Born: 28 October 1958

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: B.Sc., M.B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Amita

Children: Two (daughters) **Occupation:**

Agriculture and Industry

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 85-Bhokar, Nanded

Other information: General Secretary and VP, Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress Committee, 1986-1992; General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, 1995-1999; Member, Lok Sabha, 1987-89; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council, 1992-1998; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 1999-2004, 2004-2009; Minister of State, Public Works Department, Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs, March 1993-September 1994; Minister of State, Home and Parliamentary Affairs, September 1994-March 1995; Minister Revenue and Protocol, October 1999-January 2003; Minister Transport, Ports Cultural Affairs and Protocol,



January 2003-October 2004; Minister for Industries, Mines, Cultural Affairs and Protocol, November 2004-4 December 2008; Chief Minister, Maharashtra, 8 December 2008-26 October 2009; took oath as Chief Minister for the second time on 7 November 2009; elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019; Chairman, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Nanded City, 1985; 1987-1989: Member, Consultative Committee, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Divisional Railway Users Committee, Hyderabad, and South Central Railway; 1991-92: Member Consultative Committee, Censor Board of India, Chief Convener, Bhaurao Chavan Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Laxminagar, Degaon-Yelegaon, Nanded. This factory received first prize from Government of India on three occasions. Also, International Quality Crown Award by Business Initiative Directions, Madrid, Spain; Chairman Sharda Bhavan Shikshan Sanstha, Nanded; Chairman Sai Sevabhavi Trust, Nanded.

Reference: 12th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Dilip Dattatray Walse-Patil

Born: 30 October 1956

Place of Birth: Nirgudsar, taluka Ambegaon, Pune

Education: B.A. (Hons), D.J., L.L.M.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Kiran

Children: One (a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture and Industry

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 196-Ambegaon, Pune

Other information: Participated in politics and cooperative movement from his college days; Founder-Chairman, National Centre for Rural Development, Pune through which he implemented initiatives for educational, social and economic development of people from rural, remote and tribal areas; developed a network of dairy institutions in rural areas and worked for the empowerment of common people, especially women; Trustee, Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai and connected with many social and educational institutions; Director, Pune District Central Cooperative Bank; Founder-Chairman, Bhimashankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 1990-95, 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; Committee Chief Legislature Estimates Committee, 1992-93; felicitated as Best Parliamentarian, Maharashtra Legislative As-



sembly by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Maharashtra in 1998-99; Minister, Higher and Technical Education, October 1999-December 2002; Minister for Energy and Higher and Technical Education, December 2002-November 2004; Minister for Energy (excluding Non-Conventional Energy) and Medical Education, November 2004-March 2005; Minister for Energy (excluding Non-Conventional Energy) and Medical Education and Higher and Technical Education, March 2005-December 2008; Minister for Finance and Planning, December 2008-October 2009.

Noteworthy Decisions: Setting up Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited; implementation of Electricity Act 2003; division of Maharashtra State Electricity Board into MSEB Holding Company, Mahanirmiti, Mahapareshan and Mahavitaran; roadmap for energy development; work on 6,000 MW projects and creation of basic infrastructure for electricity; 2009-2014: Chairman, Legislative Assembly; organised Amrut Mahotsav of Maharashtra Legislature in the presence of Former President of India, Pratibhatai Patil during 2012-13; organised exhibitions and discussion forums on the occasion of birth centenary of Yashwantrao Chavan and Vasant Naik; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Dhananjay Panditrao Munde

Born: 15 July 1975

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: B.S.L.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Rajshree **Children:** Two (daughters)

Occupation: Agriculture, Industry and Social Service

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 233-Parli

Other information: Chairman, Nath Pratishthan, Parli Vajinath through which various initiatives such as community marriages, tree plantation, health check-up camps, sports events, and distribution of school materials to students are organised; in 2003, 12 persons were rescued from a rail accident at Ghatnandur; to mitigate serious issue of drinking water shortage in



rural areas, more than 200 bore wells were undertaken at many villages; unemployment and anti-terrorism youth rally in 2001;

lead role for Maharashtra Youth at Yuva Kranti Yatra in New Delhi in 2008; organised Yuva Sankalp Rally at Pune in 2009; Chief of Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Wing of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, 1997-98, Vice-Chairman, 1998-2001 and General Secretary, 2001-2007; President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, 2007-2010; Member (2002-2007) and Vice-Chairman Zilla Parishad, Beed (2007-2010); Director, Sant Jagmitra Sahakari Sootgiri Maryadit, Tokwadi, Parli Vajinath; 2006-13, 2013-16: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council, December 2014-July 2016, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, July 2016; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Council, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council; elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 2019.

Vijay Namdevrao Wadettiwar

Born: 12 December 1962

Place of Birth: Karanji, taluka Gondpimpri, Chandrapur

Education: H.S.C.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English, Telugu

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Kiran **Children:** Four (one son and three daughters)

Occupation: Agriculture and Industry

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 73-Bramhpuri, Chandrapur

Other information: Founder-President, Semana Van Vikas Shaikshanik Sanstha; Vidarba-level one-act play competition, poetry conferences, sports competitions; all possible help to poor students; health check-up camps, blood donation camps, eye check-up camps and free distribution of spectacles through the medium of Shiv Sena; guidance to unemployed and agitation for justified demands of farmers, farm labourers and forest workers and efforts for bringing justice to them; leadership at the agitations for lift irrigation schemes at Karwafa, Tultuli and Dina in Gadchiroli and help for the flood-affected people; started a dairy production and processing centre (Shivani Dairy) and made available cows and buffalos to poor, tribal and farmers to provide them employment; President, Chandrapur District Central Co-operative Bank, Director, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Bank, President, Swadeshi Kukut Palan Sahakari Sanstha,



Gadchiroli; President, Semana Vidya Va Vanvikas Prashikshan Sanstha, Gadchiroli; efforts for establishment of Nagar Parishad at Chimur and Sindewahi; special efforts for Shiv Sena's power through Nagar Parishad elections at Gadchiroli, Wadsa (De), Bhadravati, Warora, Chandrapur and Brahmpuri. Shiv Sena came to power at Panchayat Samiti at Kurkheda, Armori, Wadsa, Gadchiroli, Chamorshi, Dhanora and Mulchera; partici-

pation in Gadchiroli district creation agitation, arrest and jail; Gadchiroli District Shiv Sena Chief from 1986; 1995-98 President, Forest Development Corporation, in this the difficulties of the forest workers and forest workers co-operatives, the corporation, which were in loss were brought over to profit making were addressed; established Shiv Sena branches in 550 villages; conquered many of the Gram Panchayats in Gadchiroli and Chimur area since 1997. Working for Congress Party since 2005; Member, Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli; 1998-2004: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council; 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Member, EGS, Public Accounts, and Assurances Committee of the Legislative Assembly; November 2009-November 2010: Minister of State for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Planning and Energy; looked after the work of Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Anil Vasant Rao Deshmukh

Born: 9 May 1950

Place of Birth: Nagpur

Education: M. Sc. (Agri)

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Aarti

Children: Three (two sons and one daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 48-Katol, Nagpur

Other information: Anil Vasant Rao Deshmukh is closely connected with many social and cultural institutions; he has made special efforts for raising the standard of education; from 1970 to 1999, he worked for the Congress party, and since 1999 is working for the Nationalist Congress Party. He has served as Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Narkhed, Nagpur, 23 May 1972-9 June 1992; President, Zilla Parishad, Nagpur,



9 July 1992-12 March 1995; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014.

He has served as the Minister of State for School Education, Higher and Technical Education and Cultural Affairs, March 1995-July 1999; Minister of State for School Education, Information and Public Relations, Sports and Youth Affairs, October 1999-March 2001; Minister of State for State Excise, Food and Drug Administration, March 2001-October 2004; Minister for Public Works (Public Undertakings), November 2004-December 2008; re-elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019. He has made valuable contribution to the areas of agriculture, education and culture of Maharashtra. He has been associated with many social initiatives under Vasant Rao Deshmukh Pratishthan like community weddings and the welfare of farmers and youth.

Reference: 12th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Hasan Miyalal Mushrif

Born: 24 March 1954

Place of Birth: Kagal, Kolhapur

Education: B. A. (Economics)

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Sahera

Children: Four (three sons and one daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 273-Kagal, Kolhapur

Other information: Participated in student agitations; President, Adarsh Shikshan Sanstha, Kagal; President, Bhai Madhav Rao Bagal Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur; President, Nagnath Shikshan Sanstha, Ekondi; made efforts for the development of farmers, weaker sections and backward classes; under the leadership of Sharadraoji Pawar, active participation in the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue; active participation in farmers' agitation for increasing the rates of tobacco and milk; Member and (1997-98) Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Kagal; Member, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur; 1986-2015: Director and Vice Chairman and Chairman, Kolhapur District Central Co-operative Bank; many innovative schemes for the benefit of the members were implemented through the bank, for which it was felicitated. He served as President, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Kagal; Director and Vice



Chairman, Maharashtra State Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited (Mahanand), Goregaon, Mumbai; Vice Chairman,

MP Sadashiv Rao Mandlik Kagal Taluka Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Hamidwada; Member, Kagal Taluka Sahakari Kharedi Vikri Sangh; Founder-Director, Chhatrapati Shahu Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Kagal; Vice Chairman, Kagal Taluka Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd, Kagal; Director, Kolhapur District Sahakari Krishi Udyog Sahakari Sanstha; Vice Chairman, District Congress Committee, working for NCP since 1999; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister of State for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development (March 2001-July 2004); Minister of

State for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, School Education, Wakf (July 2004-October 2008); Minister of State for Urban Development, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Fisheries, Minorities, Wakf, Law and Judiciary (November 2008-November 2009); Minister for Labour (November 2009-June 2014); Minister for Water Resources (Krishna Valley Corporation) (27 June 2014-October 2014); re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019. **Foreign travel:** Study tour of Europe, New Zealand, Australia, China, Geneva and other countries.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad

Born: 3 February 1975

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: M. Sc. (Maths), B. Ed.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, husband Raju Babu Godse

Occupation: Social work

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 178-Dharavi (Scheduled Caste)

Other information: Chairperson, Nirmal Mahila Magasvargiya Audyogik Sahakari Sanstha, Vikhroli, Mumbai; started educational and social initiatives through institutes such as Rayat Mahasangh and Abhay Shikshan Kendra; Executive Committee Member, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Member (2004-2008) and Committee Chief (2008-2009), Women Rights and Welfare Committee.



Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad is the recipient of the Best Parliamentarian Award at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, bestowed by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Maharashtra Branch for the year 2006-2007. She served as the Minister of State for Medical Education, Higher and Technical Education, Tourism and Special Assistance (7 November 2009-10 November 2010) and Minister for Women and Child Development (11 November-26 September 2014) in the Government of Maharashtra. She was re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Foreign travel: Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad participated in the delegation appointed for the observation of US President's election. She participated in the US study tour organised by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Maharashtra Branch in 2008, and the study tour of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore in 2009.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Dr. Rajendra Bhaskarrao Shingne

Born: 30 March 1961

Place of Birth: Dongar Shewali, Buldhana

Education: B.A.M.S.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Rajni

Children: One (a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture **Party:** Na-

Constituency: 24-Sindkhed Raja, Buldhana

Other information: President, Siddheshwar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Sakharherda, Rashtramata Jijau Kanya Vidyalaya, Sindkhed Raja, Buldhana; Chief Administrator, Maharashtra Rajya Kapus Panan Mahasangh, Jijamata Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Dusarbid, taluka Sindkheda, Director, Painganga Sahakari Soot Girni, Sakharherda, taluka Sindkheda; President, Buldhana District Central Co-operative Bank - 1992-2001; 1993-Director Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Bank; 2007-Director (unopposed) Maharashtra State Marketing Federation, Mumbai; 1985 - President, District Youth Congress; General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Rashtravadi Congress since July 2004; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly-1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014; **President:** Rajmata Jijau Military School for Girls, Chandhai, taluka Chikhali; President (1990-



2005) Sahakar Maharshi Late Bhaskarrao Shingne Nagari Sahakari Patsanstha Maryadit, Buldhana, President (since 2015); The Vidarbha Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., Nagpur; Member, Public Accounts, Public Undertakings and Estimates Committee of Maharashtra Legislature (1995-1998); Minister of State for School Education, Marketing, Information and Public Relations (March 2001-July 2002), Minister of State for School Education and Marketing (July 2002-January 2003), Minister of State for School Education (January 2003-July 2004), Minister of State for Revenue, Rehabilitation, Information and Public Relations, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Assistance Work, Sports and Youth Welfare and Welfare of Ex-servicemen (November 2004-December 2008); Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare (December 2008-October 2009); re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019. He did substantial work in the areas of education, society, culture and co-operation, and laid the foundation for various co-operative institutions so

that youth could get employment. Armed with a fine understanding of issues of farmers, he implemented various schemes and programmes for them. He also made employment available to women and youth.

Reference: 12th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Nawab Mohammed Islam Malik

Born: 20 June 1959

Place of Birth: Dhuswa/Itai Rampur, taluka Utraula, Balrampur (Uttar Pradesh)

Education: F.Y.B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English, Urdu

Marital status: Married, wife Smt.

Children: Four (two sons and two daughters)

Occupation: Business

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 172-Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai Suburban

Other information: Substantial contribution to social and educational areas, especially the issues of students; special efforts for making available rightful and qualitative education to students from deprived and neglected constituents of society; President, Human Welfare Organisation, blood donation camps, students agitation, agitation against university fee increase, active participation



in Vidyarthi Sansad agitation; 1993-95, organised various programmes for social unity-integrity, religious understanding and caste brotherhood; 1998: active participation in Rail Roko in Mumbai Central Railway Station; Efforts for ₹187 crore flyover

proposal sanction; started Kamani Junction fire brigade office at Kurla (W); help for photo pass for slum dwellers; efforts for providing free homes for slum dwellers; help for rehabilitation of railway line slum dwellers; special efforts for monthly honorarium for transgenders under Special Assistance scheme. He was elected as a Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1996-99 (Bye-election), 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014. He was also Minister of State for Housing, Slum Improvement, House Repairs and Reconstruction, Special Assistance and Wakf from October 1999 to October 2004; Minister for Special Assistance and Technical Education from July

2004 to October 2004; Minister for Labour from November 2004 to March 2005; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Rajesh Ankushrao Tope

Born: 11 January 1969

Place of Birth: Aurangabad

Education: B. E. (Mechanical)

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt.

Children: One (a son)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 100-Ghansawangi, Jalna

Other information: 1991-95: Senate Member, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada Vidyapeeth, Aurangabad; Secretary, Matsyodari Shikshan Sanstha, Jalna; President, Kholeshwar Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha, Ankushnagar, Jalna through which community marriages were organised; Chairman, Samarth Sahakar Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Ankushnagar since 1997; Founder-Chairman, Yashwant Sahakari Soot Girni Limited, Ambad since 1994; Director, Maharashtra State Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation, Mumbai since 1995; Chairman, Samarth Sahakari Bank, Jalna; Member and Leader of Opposition (1996 to October 1999); Zilla Parishad, Jalna; participation at the Jail Bhao Agitation under the leadership of National Youth Congress; arrested during unemployed youth agitation 1997; 1992-96: President Jalna District Youth Congress (I); 1996-99: VP, Maharashtra Pradesh Youth



Congress (I); working for NCP since May 1999; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister of State for Water Conservation, Trade and Commerce, and Environment (March 2001-January 2003); Minister of State for Environment and Industries (January 2003-July 2004); Minister of State for Urban Development, General Administration, Urban Land Ceiling, Water Conservation and Parliamentary Affairs (November 2004-December 2008); Minister for Higher and Technical Education and Medical Education (December 2008-October 2009); Minister for Higher and Technical Education (November 2009-September 2014); re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

He toured London and Australia in 1994 and 2010, respectively. He made huge contribution to education, made available job opportunities to youth through various institutions, and implemented skill development programmes. By setting up various educational institutions, he made higher education options available to people. Through co-operative institutions, he made efforts to improve the standard of living of farmers. He laid emphasis on women empowerment and did special work in improving rural credit supply.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Sunil Chhatrapal Kedar

Born: 7 April 1961

Place of Birth: Nagpur

Education: B. Sc. (Agri), M.B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Anuja

Children: Two (daughters)

Occupation: Agriculture and Small Industries

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 49-Savner, Nagpur

Other information: 1992- Member, Zilla Parishad, Nagpur; 1992- President, Ganesh Prasadik Shikshan Sanstha; four secondary schools and one college started by this sanstha; constant efforts in resolving issues of drought-affected farmers; Director, The Vidarbha Cooperative Marketing Society, Nagpur; Director, Babasaheb Kedar Ginning Pressing Society, Savner; Director, Barrister Sheshrao Wankhede Trust, Nagpur; established



milk federation in Nagpur; organised camps to address issues of Nagpur farmers, farm labour and workers; made efforts for electricity issues and fair price for agricultural produce; organised youth initiatives and established arts, sports and cultural mandals; made efforts for making available facilities such as water supply, roads, health and others for rural population; help for poor patients; President, Nagpur Zilla Kapus Utpadak Sahakari Sut Girni, Patan-Sawangi; 1993: Chairman, Nagpur District Central Cooperative Bank; Director, Barrister Sheshrao Wankhede Trust. He was elected as Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1995-99, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister of State for Energy and Transport (March 1995 to June 1995); Minister of State for Energy, Transport and Ports (June 1995 to 1996); re-elected to

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Sanjay Dulichand Rathod

Born: 30 June 1971

Place of Birth: Yavatmal

Education: B. Com., B. P. Ed.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and Banjara

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Sheetal

Children: Two (a son and a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 79-Digras, Yavatmal

Other information: Instead of contesting elections of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti or Zilla Parishad, he contested Legislative Assembly election and won the Darwha seat in 2004. He served as Secretary, Chhatrapati Shivaji Kala, Shikshan, Kreedha, Krushi and Gramin Vikas Pratishthan, Shivpuri, Kalamb, Yavatmal; distributed school materials to economically backward students; organised dance and folk-dance competitions for tribal community; organised camps for the freedom from plastic and mosquitoes; distributed milk powder and biscuits to malnourished children; gave financial assistance to suicide-affected farmer families; help to needy patients; special efforts for people through cooperation; participated actively in Gram Vikas Sahakari Sanstha, Adivasi Sahakari Sanstha, Vividh Karykari Sanstha, Ginning Pressing Sahakari Sanstha, Taluka Obser-



vation Sahakari Sanstha, Kharedi-Vikri Sahakari Sanstha and Krishi Utpanna Bazar Samiti; worked for Shiv Sena from 1991; Zilla Pramukh, Shiv Sena Yavatmal Zilla 1997; actively participated in all Shiv Sena agitations, Vidarbha-level tribal conference, Banjara Samaj Camp and in the organisation of Sarpanch Parishad; he participated in the sit-ins for arranging grants for destitute, water and farmers' issues, and in agitations against injustice and atrocities; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Member, Panchayat Raj Committee and By-legislation Committee; Minister of State for Revenue, 5 December 2014; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 2014-2019; re-elected to the Assembly in October 2019.

He set up Maa Arogya Seva Samiti for patients and built fully facilitated Matoshree waiting rooms and rest house for the relatives of the patients in the campus of the medical college; organised eye camps in 234 villages in the constituency, distributed spectacles to 34,000 patients; took leadership of social work such as regularly organising Maha-Health Camps in the constituency. To ensure that the administration follows good governance and the issues of people are resolved immediately, he held Janata Darbar or Samadhan Divas in the district at sub-division level.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Gulabrao Raghunath Patil

Born: 5 June 1967

Place of Birth: Borkheda, Dharangaon, Jalgaon

Education: H.S.C.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English and Marwadi

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Maya

Children: Three (two sons and one daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture and business

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 14-Jalgaon (Rural), Jalgaon

Other information: All possible help for the education and progress of poor and handicapped students so that they are empowered; organised blood donation camps; participated actively in peoples' agitation against social injustice.

He served as Member, Panchayat Samiti from 1992-97; Member and Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Erandol from 1997-98; Member and Sabhapati, Krishi Samiti, Zilla Parishad,



Jalgaon; Director, Krushi Utpanna Bazar Samiti, Dharangaon from 1995-97; Member-MHADA Nashik Division, 1996-99;

Shakhapramukh, Up-Taluka Pramukh, Shiv Sena, 1984-89; Shiv Sena Zilla Pramukh, 1996; working as Upneta, 2003.

Gulabrao Patil was chosen as the Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for the terms 1999-2004, 2004-2009 and 2014-2019. He was the Member, Panchayati Raj, Employment Guarantee, and Estimates and Assurances Committee. He was re-elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

As a member of the State Cabinet, Gulabrao Patil took many important decisions. He made efforts to resolve the issues of people. He insisted that the issues before the farmers should be resolved through modernised agriculture. He also implemented welfare schemes effectively.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh

Born: 21 March 1976

Education: B. E. (Chemical)

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Aaditi

Occupation: Agriculture and industry

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 235-Latur City, Latur

Other information: Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh has been working for Youth Congress from 1997; since 2000, Founder-Chairman, Vikas Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, successful in receiving nine State-level awards in seven years for the factory; only factory in the country to have received ISO and environment certification; 2002 and 2008: Vice President, Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress (I); in-charge of Sangli and Solapur districts; played important role with responsibility in Latur during Lok Sabha and Assembly elections; 2002: Founder Chairman, Vikas Co-operative Bank Limited; 2008: Founder Chairman, Vikas Co-operative Agro Industries Limited; 2008: President, Latur Taluka Coordination Committee; 2006: played an important role in getting the elections to the Krishi Utpanna Bazar Samiti unopposed; distributed school materials to poor and needy students; distributed family items to people from economical-



ly weaker sections; facilities for environment conservation, tree plantation and drinking water kiosks made available; organised community marriages, guidance camps for youth and health check-up camps; organised various competitions for the personality development of students, such as elocution,

essay, debate, rangoli, fancy dress and others; organised State-level P. L. Deshpande drama competitions; organised music, drama, folk arts, folk dances and *bhajans*.

Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh made efforts for making available employment to youth to go in various fields to reduce unemployment, such as industry, business, agro-ancillary business, support business, agricultural mechanisation, dairy business and others. He organised cricket, volleyball, kabaddi, kho-kho, track and cycling competitions, and made special efforts for women, minorities, backward and other backward classes.

He was elected as Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 2009-2014 and 2014-2019, served as the Minister of State for Tourism, Food and Drugs Administration, State Excise, New and Renewable Energy, Government of Maharashtra from 2 June-October 2014, and was re-elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Dadaji Dagdu Bhuse

Born: 6 March 1964

Place of Birth: Malegaon, Nashik

Education: D.C.E.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Anita

Children: Two (sons)

Occupation: Agriculture and business

Party: Shiv Sena **Constituency:** 115-Malegaon (Outer), Nashik

Other information: Shiv Sena Taluka Pramukh, Malegaon; active participation in all initiatives of the party; provided information on various schemes of the Government to common people through Jagar Shivshaahicha; delivered the benefits of schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Grant Scheme and Shravan Bal Paksh Yojana to people; carried out the social works; made available employment opportunities to women through Mahila Bachat Gat; Government fallow lands and Government lands from Gaonthan was made available



to 15,000 beneficiaries; forest lands were regularised through Forest Rights Committee; help for people below poverty line; efforts for starting Additional Collector office at Malegaon;

implemented Aam Aadmi Vima Yojana and Swarn Jayanti Rural Employment Scheme; A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Dam built through people participation; made available homes for the poor at low costs; implemented water supply scheme under Bharat Nirman and National Drinking Water Mission; organised community marriages, help to needy patients, blood donation, health check-up camps and ambulance; distributed school materials; started computer training centre, gym; implemented de-addiction and cleanliness movement; forest lands regularised through Forest Rights Committee; made available caste certificates through Jagar Shivshaahicha; MLA (2004-09, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister of State for Co-operation; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Dr. Jitendra Satish Awhad

Born: 5 August 1963

Place of Birth: Nashik

Education: B. A., Master of Labour Studies (M.L.S.), Ph. D. (Mumbai University)

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Ruta

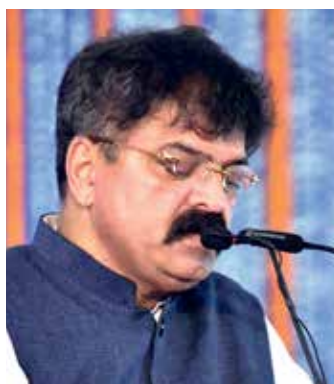
Children: One (a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture and business

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 149-Mumbra-Kalwa, Thane

Other information: Participated in social activities since school years; selected as Prime Minister in School Parliament at St. John School, Thane in 1977; Gymkhana Secretary, B. N. Bandodkar College, Thane 1980-81; 1981: General Secretary, All India Students Association; 1987-88, University representative, Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies; received Doctorate on 8 October 2013 from University of Mumbai for thesis, *Social and Religious Movements in Maharashtra*; Member, Senate, Mumbai University; Founder, Sangharsh Sewabhavi Sanstha, Thane; started Aeronautical College in Aurangabad and D. Ed. College at Mukhed, Nanded through K. Lilavati Satish Awhad Education; President, Akhil Bharatiya Vanjari Yuvak Sangh; President, Thane District Yoga Association, Chief Consultant, Castribe Jeevan Pradhikaran and Health Services staff and Rajya Mathadi and General Kamgar Sanghat-



ana; President, Maharashtra Baseball Association; Indian Pilot Guild Staff Association; honoured with Jeevan Gaurav for social work by Nawa-e-Fun; elected to Constitution Sub-Committee, Mumbai Cricket Association, President, Thane Zilla Kho Kho Sanghtana; 1988-91: General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh NSUI, 1991-93: General Secretary, All India NSUI; 1993-98: President, Thane Municipal Corporation Education Committee;

1993-96: President, All India Rashtravadi Yuvak Congress Committee; since 2006 National Secretary, NCP; since 2008 President, Thane City NCP; 2012: Spokesperson, NCP; 2013-14: Executive President, Maharashtra Pradesh NCP; Member, Maharashtra Legislature Assurances Committee, MLA Accommodation Committee; 2008: Chief Whip, Maharashtra Legislative Council NCP Legislative Party; 2009 and 2014 Whip (Legislative Assembly) NCP Legislative Party; 2010: Member of the Committee constituted by the Government to decide the new youth policy; Member, AIDS Forum Committee; 2011: Member, Ad-hoc Committee

for Inspection of private and charitable hospitals; 2012: Committee Chief, Upa-Vidhan Committee, December 2009: Chairperson, Legislative Assembly; MLC (2002-2008, 2008-2009), MLA (2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister, Medical Education and Horticulture, May-September 2014; re-elected as MLA in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumre

Born: 13 July 1963

Place of Birth: Pachod (Bu), taluka Pai-than, Aurangabad

Education: S.S.C.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Pushpa

Children: Three (one son and two daughters)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 110-Pai-than, Aurangabad

Other information: Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumre participated in literacy movement programme.

He made efforts for starting primary school in rural areas, implemented anti-dowry movement, organised community marriages, encouraged artists from rural areas; organised drama, kabaddi, cricket and volleyball competitions, and started



Lezim team and Vyayam Shala, and made efforts for increasing team spirit among youth.

In 1989, he served as Shiv Sena Shakhapramukh and Circlepramukh, Pachod; 1989-94, as Member, Gram Panchayat, Pachod; 1992-94, as Up-Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti Paithan; Director, Aurangabad District Central Cooperative Bank; 1993-2014, as Director, Sant Eknath Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Paithan.

Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumre has been a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2014-2019. He was re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Shamrao alias Balasaheb Pandurang Patil

Born: 29 July 1961

Place of Birth: Karad, Satara

Education: F.Y.B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Jaymala

Children: One (a son)

Occupation: Agriculture and social work

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 259-Karad (North),

Satara

Other information: Shamrao alias Balasaheb Pandurang Patil has made efforts for the welfare of farmers and sugarcane cutter labour and modernisation of agriculture. He has made efforts for reducing agriculture expenses and increasing productivity, and has been active in the welfare of students from deprived and neglected constituents of society for their rightful and qualitative education. His other works have been in the areas of empowering women and youth, special efforts for resolving rural issues, institutional work for rightful credit supply to farmers and labour so that investment in agriculture and rural cottage industries increases, and making available employment for unemployed youth.

Since 2008, Shamrao alias Balasaheb Pandurang Patil has been the President, Sahyadri Shikshan Sanstha, Yashwantnagar; since 2002, President Maharashtra Education Sanstha, Karad; since 1994, Governing Council Member, Education



Board; since 2005, Executive Trustee, Venutai Chavan Charitable Public Trust, Karad since 2013, President, Shree Shivaji Education Society, Karad; since 2014, President Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai Regional Center, Karad; Director since 1992 and Chairman, Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Yashwantnagar; this factory received second position in the Cane Development Award from National Sugar Federation for 1998-99, Best Financial Management 1st Position Award 2011-12; third for 2012-13 and third position award for cane development for 2012-13; 1994-96, Chairman, Sahyadri Cane Growers and Cutters Transportation Sanstha.

He served as Chairman, P.D. Patil Sahakri Bank Limited, Karad; Chairman, Sanjeevani Nagri Sahakari Pat Sanstha, Karad; Chairman, Krushnai Sahakari Doodh Utpadak Sanstha, Karad; since 2010, Director, National sugar Co-operative Factories Federation, New Delhi; since December 2003, Vice President, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh, Mumbai; 1992-99 worked for Congress Party; since 1999, working for Nationalist Congress Party; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); 2012-14 Committee Chief for Estimates Committee; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Foreign travel: He has travelled to Mauritius, Brazil, England, Italy, Australia, Singapore and other countries.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Adv. Yashomati Thakur (Sonawane)

Born: 17 May 1974

Place of Birth: Amravati

Education: B. A., LL. B.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, Husband Late Rajesh Sonawane **Children:** Two (a son and a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 39-Tiwsa, Amravati

Other information: 1989 Recipient of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Medal; recipient of Gold Medal in shooting in the 1993 All India NCC Leadership camp; participated in the 1994 Republic Day parade at New Delhi; distribution of school materials to poor and needy students from rural areas for qualitative improvement in education and distribution of books on essential subjects to 262 secondary schools in rural area; organised cultural programmes for personality development of children; made efforts to resolve various daily issues for women and children from rural areas; legal con-



sultation and help for needy; help for earthquake-affected people; organised social programmes for community enlightenment and sports guidance and sports camps for increasing

team spirit among children; help for poor patients; women empowerment through Bachat Gat; development of Kshetra Kaundinyapur, maternal home for Rukmini and started Government Pooja here on Kartik Ekadashi; carried out development of work area and Nirvana Bhumi of Sant Tukdoji Maharaj and Sant Gadgebaba; 2004-2008: General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress; since 2007 Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Legal Consultant Committee; since 2008 General Secretary, All India Youth Congress; 2010-2014: General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee; since 2004 Member, Maharashtra State Women Commission; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

2009-2014, 2014-2019; 2010-12: Committee Chief for Women Rights and Welfare Committee; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Adv. Anil Dattatray Parab

Born: 31 December 1964

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: B. Com., LL. B.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Sunita **Children:** Two (daughters)

Occupation: Industry

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: Elected through MLAs.

Other information: Social and cultural work by organising and distributing school materials to poor and needy students; all possible help to poor patients; organised Dahihandi, Ganeshotsav, Navratrotsav programmes so that the organisational skills of the youth get an opportunity and their social realisation increases; health check-up, blood donation camps; free legal consultation for common people and helping them receive their rights; organising various sports competitions and cultural events; made efforts to resolve the issues of Bandra Government Hostel; organised



guidance camps for competitive examinations; Shiv Sena Vibhag Pramukh since 2001; responsibility for legal issues of the party; active participation in all agitations of the

party; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council, 2004-2010, 2012-2018; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Council in July 2018. His most important work has been to bring issues of common people to the fore through various questions in Maharashtra Legislative Council.

He is known for his studious attitude and excellent knowledge of the strengths and issues of the State. He is insistent on resolving issues for Mumbai and known as a leader to follow-up the issues of development for the hutments and neglected habitats at Mumbai, and has been working for students organisations since his student life.

Parab has carried out many social and cultural works through youth forums. With a superb understanding of

the urban issues, his solutions have been quite important. He has a huge fan following, as he is always ready to help the deprived and poor.

Uday Ravindra Samant

Born: 26 December 1975 **Place of Birth:** Goa **Education:** Diploma in Automobile Engineering **Languages known:** Marathi, Hindi and English **Marital status:** Married, wife Smt. Jaya **Children:** Two (daughters) **Occupation:** Agriculture and business

Party: Shiv Sena **Constituency:** 266-Ratnagiri, Ratnagiri **Other information:** President, Ratnagiri District Cricket Association; Sai Aniruddha Society (started an English-medium school, ITI and a college); Pali Panchkroshi Vividh Karyakari Society and Ratnagiri District Arts and Cultural Organisation; VP, Ratnagiri District Auto Chalak-Malak Sanghatana; Founder, Shantadurga Urban Co-operative Credit Society, Ratnagiri; 2000-2003: President, Ranjeet Gramin Bigar Sheti Sahakari Patsanstha Maryadit, Pali; Founder Member, Abhinav Swayamrojar Seva Sahakari Sanstha; Founder, Dnyanjyoti Sarvajanik Granthalay, Pali; Chief Convenor, proposed Ratnagiri Swayamrojar Seva Sanstha Federation; Consultant, Sahyadri Swayamrojar Seva Sahakari Sanstha; Founder, Shri Dev Laxmi Pallinath Grahak Sahakari Sansthan and proposed Ratnagiri Taluka Handicapped Rehabilitation Service Institute Ltd., organised Khadi Gramudyog camp in Ratnagiri on behalf of NCP in 2000; participated in a rally against Chate classes; set up Jai Hind Sanstha and organised blood donation camp and Jakhadi Competition at district level; help to poor patients; organised Swami Vivekanand Lecture Series; distributed school materials to poor students; distribution of Diwali food to poor; organised tree plantation, Inter-collegiate Youth Festival; felicitation of freedom fighters and meritorious students; organised Yuvak Jodo programme in 80 villages in Ratnagiri; constructed dams at Khanu, Joyshiwadi, Pathrat, Pawas, Tonde and Kasheli villages through Shramdaan; organised a rally on Jeevan Prad-



hikaran Office for tap water scheme for Nachne village; help for hurricane-affected people of Purngad; organised District-level marathon; efforts to resolve the issues of Konkan Railway project affected persons; organised Science Exhibition in Kotawada High School; efforts for asphaltting of Dabhilwadi Road; made computer software available for New English High

School, Pali, Madhyamik Vidyamandir, Nanij, A. A. Desai High School, Hatkhamba, New English School, Tembhe, Adarsh Vidyamandir, Kurtade, Mahalaxmi Madhyamik Vidyamandir, Khedshi and Jagushte Madhyamik High School, Kuwarbanv; organised cricket tournaments in Ratnagiri; Member, Akhil Bharatita Marathi Natya Parishad Niyamak Mandal, Mumbai; President, Akhil Bharatita Marathi Natya Parishad, Ratnagiri; organised Bal Mahotsav Drama Competition, one-act play competition and Rang-sammelan; received Kokanratna Award from Maharashtra Patrakar Sangh for 2003-2004 and Yuvaratna Award from Ramzan Mubarak for 2004-2005, Bhaskar Award from The Pride of India for 2007, Sahitya Mitra Sanman Award from Konkan Marathi Sahitya Parishad in 2013; active participation in NSUI (1996-99); VP, District Youth Congress, February 1995-1999; 1999-2000 Secretary; July 2010-2012: President, Rashtravadi Yuvak Congress (RYC); 1996-99 President, Pali Yuva Manch; 1999-2001: Observer, Kolhapur RYC; 2002-2003: President, Ranjeet Gramin Sahakari Pat Sanstha, Pali; President, Ratnagiri RYC; working for Shiv Sena from 2014: MLA (2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019); Minister of State for Urban Development, Forests, Law and Judiciary, Ports and Fisheries (June 2013-September 2014); Member, EGS and Panchayat Raj Committee of the Legislature; re-elected as MLA in 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, **Brief bio-data of the members**

Adv. K. C. Padvi

Born: 3 March 1957

Place of Birth: Asli, Akranimahal, Nandurbar

Education: B.A., LL.M.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English and Adivasi

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Hemlata

Children: Two (a son and a daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture and legal practice

Party: Indian National Congress (I) **Constituency:**

1-Akkalkuwa (Scheduled Tribe) **Other information:**

Founder President, Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vidyarthi Sanghata; President, Satpuda Manav Mukti Kendra, Asli Astamba; President, Mata



Mogra Shikshan Sanstha, Asli - two Ashramshalas and three high schools have been started by this organisation in tribal area; awareness programmes in tribal community with emphasis on organisational work; organised Holi-Diwali festivals; Chairman, The Hill Valley Food and Fruit Processing Co-op Society Ltd, Asli, Akrani, Nandurbar; Janata Dal work till 1990; Congress party work from 1991; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 1990-95, 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, **Brief bio-data of the members**

Shankarrao Yashwantrao Gadakh

Born: 29 May 1970

Education: B. Com.

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 221-Newasa

Other information: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly 2009-2014; Director, A. Nagar District Central Co-op. Bank Ltd, A. Nagar 2007-2016; Chairman, A. Nagar District Central Co-op. Bank Ltd, 2007-2008; Chairman, Mula Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Sonai 1994-2005; Founder, Mula Sahakari Bank Limited, Sonai; Founder, Mula Bazar Mula Madhyavarti Sahakari Grakah Sanstha, Ltd, Sonai; Founder, Newasa Taluka Sahakari Doodh Sangh Limited,



Sonai; Trustee, Mula Education Society, Sonai; led many agitations for irrigation and electricity for farmers from Newasa taluka; Wholesale Onion Market started at Ghodegaon sub-campus of Newasa Taluka Market Committee; efforts for activation of Pandharipul MIDC; organised Mahila Bachat Gats in the district; leadership in Golden Jubilee decisions in education and Mahila Bachat Gat at District Co-operative Bank; leadership in co-generation electricity project of 30 MW for Mula factory; Best Financial Management Award for two years during the Chairmanship of Mula factory; ran fodder camp for 6,000 animals during drought 2003; youth and farmers camps; effective public relations; efforts for resolving the issues of people.

Aslam Ramzan Ali Shaikh

Born: 5 November 1968

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: Eighth standard

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English, Gujarati and Urdu

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Rizwana

Children: Three (one son and two daughters)

Occupation: Social work

Party: Indian National Congress (I) **Constituency:** 162-Malad (West), Mumbai Suburban



Other information: Chairman, Vision Foundation, Mumbai; Secretary, Ramzan Ali English High School and Junior College; Help for poor persons; Distribution of school materials to students; Corporator- 2002-2012, President, P North Ward Committee, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai—2007-2008; Active participation at all initiatives of Congress party; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly—2009-2014, 2014-2019. He was re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Aditya Uddhav Thackeray

Born: 13 June 1990

Education: B.A., L.L.B.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Unmarried

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 182-Worli

Other information: Elected to the State Legislative Assembly 2019 from Worli Legislative Constituency. Presently, Chief of Yuva Sena and President, Mumbai District Football Association in 2017; his collection of poems titled, *My Thoughts in White and Black* was published in 2007.

He has penned eight songs for a private album, *Umeed*. From his college years, he has made an impression with his leadership qualities, which he later proved



in politics as well. Today, he is fiercely placing the issues of youth and carrying out a valuable work of bringing them their rights. Through his special work culture, he is constantly striving to bring a radical change to the education sector.

While making his special contribution to the comprehensive development of school students, he lays special emphasis on being receptive for technology-developed education systems. Apart from educational reforms, he is making special efforts for youth employment. He is a Shiv Sena leader since 23 January 2018.

He was elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019. Apart from youth, he is dedicated to work for the development of farmers and working class.

MINISTERS OF STATE

Abdul Nabi Sattar

Born: 1 January 1965

Place of Birth: Sillod, Aurangabad

Education: B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Nafija Begum **Children:** Seven (two sons and five daughters)

Occupation: Business **Party:** Shiv Sena

Constituency: 104-Sillod, Aurangabad

Other information: President, National Education Institute; President, Pragati Shikshan Sanstha; President, Priyadarshani Kreedha Mandal, Sillod; organised public Ganeshotsav and blood donation camps as well as community marriages in tribal and Dalit communities; help for earthquake-affected people from Killari, Latur and Bhuj, Gujarat and flood-affected people from Mohadi; Member, Gram Panchayat, Sillod, 1984-1990; President, Nagar



Parishad, Sillod-5 March 1994 to 9 January 1996, 29 August 1998-4 March 1999 and 15 February 2000-6 September 2001;

Chairman, Vividh Karya Sewa Society, Sillod; Director, Krishi Utpanna Bazar Samiti, Sillod; Director, Mhasoba Maharaj Telbiya Utpadak Sahakari Sanstha; Director, Doodh Utpadak Sahakari Sanstha, Sillod; Director, Aurangabad District Central Cooperative Bank; Member of Maharashtra Legislative Council from 2001 to 2006; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, October 2009-2014 and 2014-2019; Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies and Customer Protection and Public Works Department from 2 November 2009-December 2010; Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries from 2 June-September 2014; re-

elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, *Brief bio-data of the members*

Satej alias Bunt D. Patil

Born: 12 April 1972

Place of Birth: Kasba Bawda, taluka Karveer, Kolhapur

Education: D.B.A.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Pratima

Children: Two (one son and one daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: Kolhapur local self-government institutes

Other information: 1992-93: President, Shivaji University Students Council; 2004-2010: Senate Member, Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Chairman, Padma Dr. D.Y. Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Gaganbawda; President, Mouni Vidyapeeth, Gargoti and Hanuman Mitra Mandal Kasba Bawda; VP, Dr. D.Y. Patil Education Society, Pune and Kolhapur; VP, Kolhapur District Mature Boxing Association, Kolhapur; working for Indian National Congress (I) Party; Party Observer at Jambusar, district Bharuch, Gujarat; Director, Kolhapur District Central Co-op bank consultant; Member, Telephone Advisory Committee, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune; work of Shriram Sewa Society; help to poor patients through D. Y. Patil Hospital; or-



ganised health camp; 10,000 trees planted in a single day at Karveer taluka; help for flood-affected people from Kolhapur; blood donation camp through D. Y. Patil Educational Complex; organised women skill training camps and AIDS awareness campaign; adoption scheme of poor and needy students, personality development camp, felicitation of meritorious students; organised initiatives for personality development of students; help to sports persons on international level; distribution of school materials to Zilla Parishad and Municipal Corporation school students; in memory of Prof. Sanjay Desai and through Trust and Fighters Sports Club, started an Ideal Joint Family Award from 2002 so that the joint family system of India should survive; organised a festival to encourage and guide Mahila Bachat Gats; efforts for Government to implement testing for AIDS must before marriage; distributing exercise books to students as an encouragement on the occasion of birthday registered in the *Limca Book of Records* in 2014 and in *World Records of India*

in 2016; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, October 2004-2009 and 2009-2014; Minister of State for Home, Rural Development, Food and Drugs Administration and Horticulture from 2010 to 2014; elected to Maharashtra Legislative Council in January 2016.

Shambhuraje Shivajirao Desai

Born: 17 November 1966

Place of Birth: Mumbai

Education: B. Com.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Smita

Children: Two (one son and one daughter)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Shiv Sena

Constituency: 261-Patan, Satara

Other information: Chief Trustee since 1986, Daulat Industrial Training Institute; Polytechnic College, Junior and Senior College and an English-medium school started through Morna Shikshan Sanstha Ltd, Daulatnagar, Marali, taluka Patan.

He organised medical camp and tree plantation; medical service work started in rural hilly areas; since 1986, Director and 1986-96, Chairman, 1996-2014 Mentor-Director, Loknete Balasaheb Desai Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Daultanagar, Marali, Patan, Satara; in the co-



operative sector, he was elected as the youngest Chairman at the age of 19 in entire Asia; 2000, Founder, Shivdaulat Sahakari Bank, Malharpeth; Member, National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories, New Delhi; 2002-2004 Central

Representative, Bank of Maharashtra; Director, Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh.

He played an active role in social work since 1986; organisational work for Shiv Sena in Patan taluka and Satara district since 1997; 1992-1997: Member, Panchayat Samiti, Patan; 1992-2002: Member, Zilla Parishad, Satara; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly 2004-2009, 2014-2019; Member, Library Committee; felicitated with Best Parliamentarian Award for 2007-2008 from Commonwealth Parliament Association, Maharashtra Branch by the President of India, Smt. Pratibhatai Patil. He was re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Omprakash alias Bacchu Babarao Kadu

Born: 5 July 1970

Place of Birth: Belora, taluka Chandurbazar, Amravati

Education: B. Com.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi and English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Nayna

Children: One (a son)

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Independent

Constituency: 42-Achalpur, Amravati

Other information: Agitation for prohibition on Tamasha, while studying in 8th class; 1994: agitation for school students' admission; Dera agitation for cotton and electricity issues; Ardh-daphan agitation for tribal lands; saving from his own marriage expenses, provided three-wheeler cycles and artificial organs to 250 handicapped persons during marriage; prepared a book-bank for students; organised cultural programmes during Purna Festival; organised Vidarbha-level wrestling and kabaddi competitions; treatment and surgery for 1,500 adopted heart patients; all possible treatment for 200 brain tumour patients in Mumbai; medical assistance and all possible help to 100 cancer patients; cataract surgery for 2,000 patients; organised 1,000 blood donation camps, 15,000 bottles of blood supplied to blood banks at K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai, General Hospital,



Amravati and Medical College, Nagpur; himself donated blood 70 times; distribution of cycles to handicapped; served as Chief, Bharatiya Vidyarthi Sena 1989-92; 1992-98- Shiv Sena Taluka Pramukh, Founder President, Prahar Vidyarthi Sanghata; Member, Satyashodhak Bahuuddeshiya Sanghatana, Tonglapur, taluka Chandurbazar, Amravati; Founder, Prahar Kamgar Sanghatana, Prahar Mahila Doodh Utpadak Sangh, Prahar Krushi Prakriya Niryatdar Sangh, Prahar Audyogik Vikas

Sanstha, Belora, taluka Chandurbazar, Amravati; Founder, Prahar Yuva Shakti Sanghatana 1999; 2013-14: Sahyadri Channel Arya-Chanakya Award for notable social work on behalf of Prahar Sanghata party; chosen for the Best Elected Representative Award from MIT, honoured with Maharashtra Government Rakt-Mitra Award in 2011-12, and got 96 members elected to Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad and Nagar Parishad. In 1993-98, he became Member, Gram Panchayat; Member (1997-2002) and Sabhapati (1997-98), Panchayat Samiti, Chandurbazar; Member, Zilla Parishad, Amravati, 1997-98; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 2004-2009, 2009-2014,

2014-2019; Member, Legislature Panchayat Raj Committee, Library Committee; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Dr. Vishwajeet Patangrao Kadam

Born: 13 January 1981 **Education:** B.E., M.B.A., Ph.D., **Languages known:** Marathi, Hindi and English **Marital status:** Married, wife Smt. Swapnali **Occupation:** Social work **Party:** Indian National Congress (I) **Constituency:** Palus-Kadegaon **Other information:** Secretary, Bharati Vidyapeeth; working as Executive President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee since August 2019; appointed as member of the Board of Directors of Rayat Shikshan Sansthan and elected to Executive Council; Pro-Vice Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University; working as Director at two co-operative industries: Sonhira Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana and Sagarshwar Sahakari Soot Girni; Kadegaon, Sangli; VP-Western India Football Association, Pune; elected President of District Football Association and connected



to Deccan Eleven Club; elected as President, Maharashtra Pradesh Yuvak Congress in September 2011 and January 2014. Dr. Vishwajeet Kadam has looked after the work of Bharati Sahakari Bank Ltd, Pune, a multi-state scheduled bank with 27 branches. He has worked as a Member, AICTE, New Delhi, Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India; he was nominated as a member for teaching, research, hospitality and business at Indian Grape Processing Board of the Food Processing Industries Board, Government of India; Member, Study Group on Technology of the Planning Commission under the MHRD, Sub-education group. He is a Managing Trustee at Abhijit Kadam Memorial Foundation, which works in education, society and community. He was elected as Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly at the by-election held in 2018 and re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Dattatray Vithoba Bharane

Born: 1 June 1968 **Place of Birth:** Anthurne **Education:** B. Com. **Languages known:** Marathi, Hindi, English **Marital status:** Married, wife Smt. Sarika **Children:** One (a son) **Occupation:** Agriculture **Party:** Nationalist Congress Party **Constituency:** 200-Indapur **Other information:** Director since 1992, 2003-2008: Chairman, Chhatrapati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Bhawaninagar, In-



dapur; Director since 1996, 2002-2003: Chairman, Pune District Central Co-operative Bank; 1991-99 work for Congress party; since 1999 working for NCP; Member (2012-14) and President (March 2012-September 2014), Zilla Parishad, Pune; received Handicapped Welfare State Award for 2013 from Social Welfare Department for excellent work; elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 2014-2019; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Reference: 12th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members

Smt. Aaditi Sunil Tatkare

Education: B.A., M.A. **Languages known:** Marathi, Hindi, English **Party:** Nationalist Congress Party **Constituency:** 193-Shriwardhan **Other information:** Smt. Aaditi Sunil Tatkare worked as Professor at Jai Hind College, Mumbai from 2002-2009. She also worked for UPSC examinations from 2002-2009 as a Supervisor. From 2002-2009, she was active in social and political work, and joined Rashtravadi Yuvati



Congress, the women wing of Nationalist Congress Party, in 2012.

As an active member of the Nationalist Congress Party, she started working as Konkan Regional Coordinator; Member, Raigad Zilla Parishad from Varse, Roha group on 23 February 2017.

Smt. Aaditi Sunil Tatkare was elected as President, Raigad Zilla Parishad on 21 March 2017 and stayed on the position till 25 November 2019. She was elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Sanjay Baburao Bansode

Born: 1 July 1973

Education: Class 12

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married, wife Smt. Shilpa

Occupation: Agriculture/Politics

Party: Indian National Congress (I)

Constituency: 237-Udgir (Scheduled Caste)

Other information: Elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019. He enjoys huge number of followers at vil-



lage level; constantly strives for resolving issues of common people; organised youth and made efforts towards bringing change at village level; special efforts for resolving various issues while working for the student organisation. With his fair understanding on rural Maharashtra, Bansode has made important efforts towards implementing Government schemes for the welfare of deprived and poor. He is always making efforts so that youth from poor and deprived sections of society improve their standard of living and bring about social change.

Prajakt Prasadrao Tanpure

Born: 13 September 1976

Education: B.E., M.B.A., M.S.

Languages known: Marathi, Hindi, English

Marital status: Married

Occupation: Agriculture

Party: Nationalist Congress Party

Constituency: 223- Rahuri

Other information: Chairman, Prasad Sakhar Karkhana; President, Nagar Parishad elected by the people; special efforts for resolving various urban issues of Rahuri through the post of President, Nagar Pari-



shad; highly educated Tanpure has excellent understanding of the issues of both rural and urban populations and lays emphasis on working with the people; he is known as a leader who looks for organisation of youth and brings a change through them. Various initiatives implemented by him for carrying various Government schemes for poor and deprived constituents of society are important. Agriculture and farmers is a subject of his studies and he is making efforts to bring a positive change to the life of farmers. He has been elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Rajendra Shamgonda Patil (Yadravkar)

Born: 5 May 1970 **Education:** Diploma (Civil) **Languages**

known: Marathi, Hindi, English **Party:** Na-

tionalist Congress Party **Constituency:**

280-Shirol **Other information:** Chairman,

Sharad Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.,

Narande, Hatkanangale; President, Parvati

Co-op Industrial Estate Ltd, Yadrav, Shirol;

President, Parvati Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd,

Kurundwad, Shirol; President, All India

Federation of Co-op. Spinning Mills Ltd,

Mumbai; President, Padmavati Machine

Loom Audyogik Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.,

Yadrav; President, Parvati Co-op. Housing

Society Ltd, Yadrav; Director, Maharashtra

State Co-op Industrial Estate Federation

Ltd.; Director, Kolhapur District Central

Co-operative Bank Limited, Kolhapur; Di-

rector, Kolhapur District Shetkari Vinkari

Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd., Yadrav; **Educa-**



tional: President, Sharad Institute of Technology, College of Engineering, Yadrav; Sharad Institute of Technology (Polytechnic) Yadrav; Sharad Agriculture College, Jainapur, Shi-

rol; Shamrao Patil (Yadravkar) ITI, Yadrav;

Dnyan Ganga High School and Prathamik

Vidya Mandir, Jaysingpur; Danling Vidya-

lay, Umalwad, Shirol; Sharad English Me-

diun School, Yadrav; Sharad Play Group

and Nursery, Yadrav; Sharad Computer

Institute, Yadrav under Shamrao Patil

(Yadravkar) Educational and Charitable

Trust, Jaysingpur; **Financial:** President,

Yadrav Co-op. Bank Limited, Yadrav; **Pol-**

itical: Executive President, Kolhapur NCP;

President, NSUI, Shirol; VP, Kolhapur Youth

Congress (I), Secretary, Maharashtra Youth

Congress (I) (1995-99); General Secretary,

NCP (1999-2005); elected to the Legisla-

tive Assembly in October 2019.

Ref: 12th and 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Brief bio-data of the members



THE PROMISE OF PROGRESS

In his first-ever winter assembly at Nagpur, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray informed that the focus of the Government is on building a new progressive Maharashtra that's free from all woes. Issues raised in the assembly were looked into in detail for which some optimistic solutions were given as well.

The Chief Minister expressed his objective of building a people-centric Maharashtra, which can also become an inspiration to other States while attaining success. The new Government will emphasise on the welfare of farmers and common man, creating ample employment opportunities, increasing irrigation capacity and encouraging infrastructural development.

People should not develop any misconception about the Citizenship Amendment Act, advised Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the Nagpur Assembly Session. He also assured that no harm will be caused to any citizen, be it from any caste, religion or region.

The implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has created an atmosphere of fear, disruption and confusion in the country. There have been protests against the Act which is also causing violence in a few areas. It is important for us all to stay calm and united, and clear all

the prevalent misconceptions. He also added that as Chief Minister, he will fulfill his responsibility of communicating and transparently interacting with various sections of society.

People should not fear, as the Act is yet to be discussed at the Supreme Court level. If they want to raise their

voice against the Act, they should do it democratically and lawfully. Peaceful discussions are also encouraged.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also appealed to the people to adopt non-violent ways to protest and ensure that there is no loss of life and property during the process.

A PROMISE TO FARMERS

A promise to ensure that all necessary measures will be taken to safeguard farmers' interests was one of the early assurances given by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

In his first-ever assembly, he declared a loan waiver for farmers. Mahatma Jotirao Phule Shetkari Karj Mukti Yojana 2019 was announced, thus proving that the Government is standing strongly in support of farmers. Farmers with crop loans of up to ₹2 lakh outstanding up to September 2019 will benefit under this scheme. This initiative will come as a relief for farmers and take a big burden off their shoulders.

SHIV BHOJAN YOJANA

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a leader of masses. People considered him their God, as he cared for the well-being of even the smallest section of society. Keeping his ideology in mind, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced the Shiv Bhojan Yojana, which provides a meal at ₹10. This scheme will be initially implemented in the areas of every district headquarter, and around 50 centres are expected to set up in the first phase.

IMPETUS TO IRRIGATION PROJECTS

As many as 52 projects from Vidarbha under the Baliraja Jal Sanjivani Yojana are pending. These projects will be prioritised and completed in phases by June 2023. Around 100 projects were undertaken in Amaravati to clear the backlog in irrigation. Out of those, 46 projects are still incomplete and will be completed by 2022.

SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG

At the Nagpur assembly, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray informed that the Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg will be completed well in advance of its stipulated time as the project is important not only for Vidarbha but entire Maharashtra.

Earlier, a loan of ₹28,000 crore was needed to be taken on which an interest of ₹6,400 crore would have been incurred. However, the loan amount has been reduced by ₹3,500 crore and, thus, ₹2,500 crore will be saved overall. As many as 20 Krushi Samruddhi Kendras (new towns) will be set up along the expressway. Along with this, agro-treatment industries will be set up. Once completed, this highway will generate direct employment of around five lakh through sectors such as industries, tourism and entrepreneurship.

BHAT SHETI MISSION

Gondia, Bhandara, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts from Vidarbha are popular for their rice cultivation. Bhat Sheti Mission will be implemented to encourage this sector and promote the cultivation of brown rice. This will also promote the agro-treatment industry. As a relief to the farmers, the Government had sanctioned ₹500 per quintal, which has now been increased by ₹200.

FOOD-PROCESSING CLUSTERS

Employment will be generated by promoting small, medium and large-scale cotton industries by treating the cotton produced in Vidarbha. The Chief Minister also informed about setting up of food-processing clusters to promote the food-processing industry.

SPECIAL OFFICES

The Government is planning to set up special offices at the district level to save the time, money and efforts of people travelling to Mumbai from remote areas in order to solve their issues. Primarily, as an experiment, this



COMPENSATION

As an aid to farmers who bore losses due to unpredictable rainfall, the Government has sanctioned ₹6,600 crore out of which ₹2,100 crore have already been disbursed. The State Government has also appealed to the Centre for ₹14,600 crore as compensation to the farmers affected by untimely rainfall and floods. This information was shared by Finance Minister Jayant Patil in the Vidhan Sabha. The money is being disbursed by the Government. Around ₹2,100 crore out of the sanctioned ₹6,600 crore has been disbursed through the district collectors. The process for disbursing the remaining amount is still in progress.

FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORTS

Chief Minister announced that the long pending issues of the airports will be resolved soon.

AID TO EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED

Palghar has faced earthquakes multiple times in the past two years. Earthquake Rehabilitation Minister Subhash Desai informed that all the necessary steps are being taken to make people aware of earthquakes and provide them with disaster management training.



FOODGRAINS

To ensure that foodgrains-producing farmers get the right pricing for their produce in Gondia and Bhandara districts and fill the gaps so far, ₹13.8 crore is being disbursed, Civil Supplies and Consumer Rights Protection Minister Chhagan Bhujbal informed.

DISHA INSPIRES MAHARASHTRA

Minister for Home, Eknath Shinde informed that the Government is putting serious thought into implementing a scheme inspired by Andhra Pradesh's DISHA law to empower women and girls against all oppression and to ensure their safety and security.

MAHA PORTAL

There have been many applications to fill up the vacant seats in the Wildlife Conservation Department. The current capacity of the Maha portal is not enough to conduct online examinations for so many applications. Therefore, the admission process has been stalled until this issue is resolved. The Government respects the emotions of the applicants and is working to make necessary changes.

will be done on a divisional level. These offices will not only solve the grievances of the common man, but will also have an independent medical cell.

ROADS WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

The Hybrid Annuity Model, which intends to repair and strengthen roads, has not met with the expected response from banks. To solve this problem, new strategies of funding will be adopted through international financial institutions.

occupations. Good roads that increase connectivity to remote tribal areas will ensure their development. Special programmes are also being implemented for the same. Centralised kitchens will be set up in areas of Melghat to make sure that adivasi children get balanced meals, thus curbing malnutrition. Fishery hubs will be created to promote fisheries and related occupations in east Vidarbha. Tap water will be provided to every household in villages by 2024.



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray guiding officers in a review meeting at Washim.

HONORARIUM TO ASHA WORKERS

Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is the backbone of our health management. The previous Government had announced an additional ₹2,000 for ASHA workers; however, a Government resolution for the same was not passed. This resolution will be immediately passed now.

OVERALL PROGRESS

A mega steel plant, inspired by the one in Jamshedpur-Bhilai, will be set up to increase employment and make optimum use of the mines in Vidarbha. Effective schemes will be implemented to ensure that the land obtained through Forests Rights is used optimally for farming and other

Vanvidya will be set up in Chandrapur.

INVESTMENTS IN MIHAN

MIHAN project in Vidarbha is capable of changing the face of the region, but its effect has not been up to the mark so far. The Government is going to offer a time period of five years for investors to pay the amount. To increase the investment in MIHAN, the development process of Nagpur airport will be done through public-private partnership.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA SHARAD ARVIND BOBDE

In the Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad, respectively, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Minister

Subhash Desai moved the resolution of congratulation to Sharad Arvind Bobde on being appointed as the Chief Justice of India. Praising him the Chief Minister said, "It is a matter of immense pride that Sharad Arvind Bobde, originally hailing from Maharashtra, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of India. It is a pleasant coincidence that he belongs to Nagpur, and here we are congratulating him in the Nagpur Assembly itself! Bobde is the face of a new era. He has

is not satisfactory. Thus, crop insurance schemes have been improvised. The Government will ensure that the farmers are benefitted to the maximum. And, to make sure that the farmers get the benefits at once, the reports, reviews and statistics prepared by the Government will be considered. Efforts are being made to ensure that the loan waiver amount reaches the farmers through various banks along with the district-level banks. Individual benefit schemes are being imple-



always worked for the betterment of farmers."

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AMRAVATI

Reviewing the development works of Amravati, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that with the participation and coordination of the people's representatives, the projects of roads and water conservation and others will be implemented on priority, and those pending will be completed at a quicker pace.

Farmers who bear loss because of untimely rainfall have the support of crop insurance. However, the response of the companies expected to provide relief through crop insurance

mented through Pokhra Yojana. They are supported by the group benefit schemes. Group farm ponds scheme will be implemented so that water is available for the rabi season. This will ensure that enough water is available even in case of scarce rainfall and the farmers are assured of their livelihood.

Under the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 41 roads of around 256.42 km length have been built. Around 90 road works of 362.15 km length are in progress. The grants for comprehensive improvisation of road projects will also be increased. Around 28,594 TCM of water storage capacity has been created through 105 schemes of water conservation. All the schemes will be reviewed and necessary improvisations



STUDY GROUPS CANCELLED

Minister for School Education, Balasaheb Thorat informed that 33 study groups formed by the Education Commissioner to study the funds received per student in schools and other issues have been cancelled.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CELL

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed reopening of the medical assistance cell in Chief Minister's Secretariat at Nagpur's Hyderabad House to make provisions for the patients from Vidarbha. The cell was closed during the Presidential rule.

Dr. Sonpure, Medical Officer, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College, will be in charge of this cell. For the assistance of the Chief Minister Medical Assistance Cell, a committee of Nagpur Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Director Health Services and district surgeon has been formed.

CURBING ILLEGAL MONEY-LENDING

Minister for Co-operation, Jayant Patil announced the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of Vidhan Parishad member Vidya Chavan to stop illegal money lending and take proper action against Government officials who encourage fraudulent practices.



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray paid tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur. Cabinet Minister Dr. Nitin Raut was also present on the occasion.

will be made to maximise their benefits. The talukas of Varud and Morshi are not included in the unpredictable rainfall affected area covered for benefits. When informed about this, Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta assured that the matter will be discussed with the concerned district collectors and necessary steps will be taken.

The Government also plans to implement Samuhik Kumpan Yojana to curb the losses caused by wild animals. He also informed that Nilgai will be included in the criterion, which provides assistance to those affected

in accidents with wild animals.

A VISIT TO DEEKSHABHOOMI

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited Deekshabhoomi. He paid his humble tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar by offering his bust a garland of flowers. He also paid tributes to his urn kept in the stupa and paid homage to the idol of Gautam Buddha.

In 2018, works of ₹100 crore were given in-principle approval for Deekshabhoomi, out of which ₹40 crore has already been given to Nagpur Metro-

politan Region Development Authority. At the Legislative Council, Minister for Social Justice, Chhagan Bhujbal informed that the money will be given to Deekshabhoomi's development work as and when required.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN YAVATMAL

While reviewing the development projects in Yavatmal, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray informed that priority will be given to irrigation projects in the district as well as funds will be made available to complete the pending projects. The



financial assistance for farmers affected by untimely rainfall has been sent to the respective districts. In the first phase, ₹102 crore has been disbursed in Yavatmal, which will be followed by ₹222 crore in the second phase. The process for the same has been started at the taluka level. The Chief Minister added that funds reserved for the development of minority groups will also be provided.

PROGRESS REPORT OF CHANDRAPUR

No developmental project from Chandrapur district has been stalled and all

the works will be completed as planned earlier. The Chief Minister has informed that a meeting will be conducted to solve the problems faced by 14 disputed villages on the border of Telangana and Maharashtra and to resolve the issues of agro-pumps in the left-wing extremism affected villages of Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Gondia. This information was shared by him during the review meeting for Chandrapur district. The administration has been advised to follow the positive and useful suggestions given by people's representatives. Funds for Chandrapur's Babupeth Bridge will be released soon. The development plan for the Mahakali Temple will also be completed soon.

SURJAGAD IRON EXCAVATION

Surjagad Iron Excavation Project is crucial for the development of the entire Gadchiroli district. This project will help improve other facilities in the district, such as rail services and power supply, and curb left-wing extremism. This is why it is important to prioritise this project, opined the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister studied the various issues of Gadchiroli district, after which he ordered for immediate emphasis on its unemployment issues, connectivity problems and agricultural issues, among others. He has also advised to take all the necessary precautions before starting the sale of foodgrains so that the process remains hassle-free.

It has been noticed that a few tribal groups from Gadchiroli have been affected badly by the Medigadda Irrigation Project undertaken at Kaleshwaram in Telangana. To solve this issue, the Chief Minister has ordered the officials to prepare a test report for the project.

DEVELOPMENT OF SALINE WATER REGIONS

After reviewing the development plans for Akola district, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered for a combined development plan to be devised to ensure water supply for saline



PENDING SRA PROJECTS

Minister Jayant Patil informed in the Vidhan Parishad that the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) will undertake redevelopment projects in Mumbai city and suburbs, and a committee of experts will be formed for the same. According to SRA, many projects get necessary approvals, but problems surface in later stages and, thus, some projects remain pending. Such projects will be identified by the committee and necessary decisions will be made. The committee will also look into the quality of construction.

ASSISTANCE TO SUGAR FACTORIES

Cooperative Minister Jayant Patil informed that the Government is making constant efforts to improve the economic condition of sugar factories and bring sustainable development to the field. Efforts are also being made by sugar commissions to try and give the farmers the correct price according to Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP). Around 84 per cent of the total ₹1557.59 crore from the kharif season before 2018-19, i.e. ₹1304.44 crore, has been paid. The process is under progress to provide the remaining amount as well. The State Government will take all necessary steps to revamp the sugar industries and make it sustainable.

water regions of Akola, Amravati and Buldhana districts. It is important to immediately provide clean drinking water to these saline regions and all necessary steps will be taken to address these issues.

The Chief Minister has also ordered the officials to look personally into the completion of the Purna Barrage Project as it is crucial for Akola in terms of irrigation. He directed the officials to prepare a State-level report on the work done.

the mainstream. Although Washim's geography limits the setting up of huge irrigation projects, funds will be provided to set up smaller projects to solve its irrigation issues. This limitation, however, adds extra pressure on the smaller irrigation projects. Around three barrages have been proposed on Adan river. About 5,000-hectare land will be brought under irrigation once the canals in small irrigation projects are repaired. While reviewing the

The Chief Minister has asked the Water Conservation Department to submit a proposal for additional funds, if needed. The Chief Minister has also advised the Water Supply Department to look into the Buldhana Khadakpurna water supply scheme. He asked the concerned officials to look into the incomplete constructions of drama theatres. The issues of Khamgaon-Jalna Railway have been pending with the Railway Infrastructure Board.



Former President Pratibhatai Patil was felicitated on her 85th birthday by senior leader Sharad Pawar and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on behalf of Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan divisional centre, Nagpur.

The Chief Minister directed to solve the issues under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He has also asked the officials to ensure the quality of houses built at Balapur under the scheme before handing them over to the beneficiaries. The Chief Minister told the officials to resolve all technical issues related to the provision of grants for wells.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN WASHIM

Funds will be provided under various schemes to bring Washim district into

Buldhana district, the Chief Minister informed that the Janori Project will be completed soon with all necessary permissions provided on priority.

FUNDS FOR JIGAON PROJECT

The Jigaon project is extremely important in terms of irrigation in Buldhana district. The Government is positive about its completion and additional funds will be provided, if required. An independent meeting will be held at Mantralaya to discuss the same.

These issues will be given priority and resolved soon. The Chief Minister has also urged completing the development plan for Lonar and Sindkhed Raja.

CLEAN WATER FOR BHANDARA

Immediate steps will be taken to ensure clean water supply for Bhandara district and Pauni taluka. The Chief Minister has asked the district collector to prepare a proposal for the same and present it to the Government. He has also asked respective authori-

ties to look into a combined tourism development plan for Bhandara-Gondia and implementation of the sand policy.

The wastewater from Nagpur has polluted the Vainganga River. Thus, Bhandara city and a few villages from Pauni taluka receive contaminated water. Planning is under progress to set up a ₹1,500 crore wastewater treatment plant in Nagpur to address the issue. There is a huge scope for tourism in Bhandara and Gondia. A combined tourism development plan will, thus, be prepared for both the districts.

The Chief Minister has asked all concerned authorities to work in coordination with each other for the same. In addition, there are some issues related to the highway passing through the cities of Bhandara and Tumsar. The work of ring roads for both the cities is in progress and will be given priority, said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

DHAPEWADA IRRIGATION PROJECT

As many as 227 villages from nine talukas will be benefitted by the Dhapewada Irrigation Project. The project is inspired by the Gosikhurd project and the Government aims to complete the project soon, informed Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a Gondia district review meeting.

Dhapewada Project will bring about 90 hectares of land under irrigation. The Chief Minister has also asked to review the issues of the district related to uneven rainfall and crops, and has asked the officials to make quicker decisions regarding the same. The work of the medical college in Gondia will be done in a time-bound manner. On the lines of Gadchiroli, appointments will be made for the vacant posts in Gondia district, said the Chief Minister.

MAHARASHTRA MARINE FISHERIES REGULATION ACT AMENDED

Necessary changes have been made in the Maharashtra Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1981 to stop fishing with LED bulbs and paracasein nets, informed Minister Balasaheb Thorat in the Vidhan Parishad. He also assured

that fishermen who bore losses during storms or floods will be immediately disbursed a relief of ₹5 crore or more if required.

DUMPING GROUND

While speaking in the Vidhan Parishad, Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde said that the problems and complaints of the residents related to Adharwadi Dumping Ground, which comes under the Kalyan-Dombivali Municipal Corporation will be discussed with the administration and addressed on priority. Along with this, committees will be set up to address similar issues around the State.

CASHLESS HEALTH SCHEMES FOR TEACHERS

School Education Minister Balasaheb Thorat informed that cashless health scheme will soon be implemented for the families of full-time teachers and non-teaching staff of accredited and aided private, primary, secondary, higher secondary and teachers' schools.

SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH SARTHI YOJANA

No scholarship given by the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute has been stalled and will continue to be implemented as before, informed Minister Dr. Nitin Raut. Under Sarthi, a scholarship is given to students from the Maratha community for preparing for competitive exams. The scholarship scheme will be implemented like before. The circular related to it, which was released earlier, has been cancelled. The Government does not intend to put any restrictions on the institutions in their work of empowering students from the Maratha, Kunbi or Kunbi-Maratha communities. The Government is trying to ensure that the institution functions as per Government regulations and students from the community get employment and are brought into the mainstream.

—Team Lokrajya



BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT

The State Government intends to provide training for competitive exams for students from Vidarbha and Konkan so that they get employed in public sector jobs. Industries Minister Subhash Desai said that they are working on a programme that matches the current standards for the same.

GRANT TO UNAIDED SCHOOLS

School Education Minister Balasaheb Thorat informed that the Government is planning to implement the already introduced scheme of providing grants to unaided schools.

BIGGER PLANS FOR HOSTELS

Inspired by Karnataka and Telangana, Maharashtra will utilise 100 per cent of the funds provided by Union and State Governments for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, said Tribal Development Minister Dr. Nitin Raut. The funds will be utilised in solving the issues of hostels for tribal students. Member Ravindra Phatak also submitted a proposal in the Vidhan Parishad on the subject.





THE CHARISMATIC LEGEND

*Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray is one of the tallest and multifaceted personalities of Maharashtra. He was an excellent cartoonist, an excellent orator and a mass leader who cared for the underprivileged. Though he never directly participated in governance of the State, he always fought for the issues of people. His bold and unique stands on various national issues gave jitters to many State and National leaders. He was an inspiration not only for the Shivsainiks, but also many others. He will always be remembered for his feisty and roaring leadership, says **Nikhil Panditrao**.*

Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray founded Shiv Sena on 19 June 1966. Since the very beginning, he addressed every party worker of Shiv Sena as *Shivsainik*—inspired by the way the great Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj addressed his soldiers, as *mavales* (soldiers). By giving them the title of Shivsainik, he kept the spirit of

his people alive and the flame inside them burning to keep working for social causes and welfare. His excellent oratory skill was innate and played an important role in keeping this spirit alive. His ability to directly connect and communicate with the audiences and the spontaneity of his speeches kept the Shivsainiks riveted. With his voice modulations and a bit dramatic

style of oratory, no matter how huge the crowds were at the rallies, the Shivsainiks were left spellbound and went home recharged and motivated. This was his biggest power!

NEVER SPARED ANY WRONGS

Shiv Sena Pramukh always helped the Shivsainiks to counter the wrongs in society, and supported them in tak-

ing up the right causes. His unique style of speeches came to be known as 'Thackeray style'. The cartoonist inside him often influenced his speeches. In fact, many of his famous speeches stemmed from his ability and talent as a cartoonist. He expressed his views vehemently with the help of this talent. With his brushstrokes, he may have slammed many people, but he also firmly stood by many! When senior actor Amitabh Bachchan was hospitalised after the accident on the sets of the film *Coolie*, he drew a cartoon depicting Yama—the God of Death—asking him to not come anywhere near the hospital where the actor was undergoing treatment. With this cartoon, he showed the bond he shared with the actor.

MASTER OF LANGUAGES

Balasaheb is known as a leader proficient in languages and lines. He shared a special bond with Shivsainiks and the doors of his Mumbai residence, Matoshree were always open to them. He was a very generous person and his every act showed the graciousness of his heart. He was always compared with his legendary father, Prabodhankar Keshav Thackeray, and undoubtedly, the Shiv Sena supremo was greatly influenced by him. The only difference between the two was that though Prabodhankar's thinking was formidable he could not build an organisation around them, while Balasaheb Thackeray not only gave society an ideology, but also built a huge organisation based on it and managed to win tremendous public support.

A STRAIGHTFORWARD LEADER

Balasaheb was known for his straightforward position on issues of national and social importance. He showed remarkable organisational skills in creating Shiv Sena that were comparable to many of the top national leaders of his time. The same organisational skills can now be seen in his successors, Chief Minister Uddhav Thacker-

ay and Minister Aditya Thackeray.

He always took initiatives for the welfare of the underprivileged. He was the first one to start the medical care centre on wheels for the poor in Mumbai and many people benefitted from it. In times of national crisis or natural calamities such as earthquakes, Shivsainiks are the first ones to help. It is a mark of their attachment to social causes. It is only due to his vision that today we see so much development in Mumbai. He had vowed to follow the footprints of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's governance which he managed to achieve when he got the power. Balasaheb believed that a new chapter of development is possible only if a firm infrastructure is in place. With this belief, he started many infrastructural projects in Maharashtra after the coalition Government came to power. This is how development started in the State.

There is a famous incident from Sindhudurg district that is often quoted where one person died in a small village due to lack of proper road and infrastructure. As there was no facility to take him to the hospital, Balasaheb offered his car to take him there. Such incidents made him realise the importance of good infrastructure and facilities, and he diligently worked for such developmental projects.

TRUST AND LOVE DEFINED HIM

Balasaheb's bond with the Shivsainiks was based on love and trust. They idolised him and gave him the same love and respect that many South Indian leaders enjoyed in many local households, with people worshipping these icons. His fighting spirit was there for all to see during Karnataka-Maharashtra border agitations, and it continues to inspire people even today. After spending hundred days in the jail for the same, he expressed his views through his cartoons based on the memories there and managed to convince people of his stand on the issue.

Today, Balasaheb is considered the

architect of growth and development. Drawing inspiration from his vision, the party has taken developmental works to many villages of Maharashtra. Vision of 80 per cent social service was realised by Shivsainiks on the ground. Shivsainiks took various initiatives regarding the day-to-day matters concerning the common man to make his life easier and better. They never hesitated to help anyone, be it helping the poor with PAN cards, ration cards and even small items such as spectacles. After the alliance came to power, his concept *zunka bhakar* (where individuals were given stalls to sell *zunka bhakar*, a Maharashtrian meal of gram flour and jowar at a cash subsidy) for a rupee was implemented. This helped in making subsidised food available to all the underprivileged, hardworking labour class and weaker sections of society. These centres were set up at many places so as to create a network of subsidised food, and these efforts didn't go unnoticed by the poor, who appreciated the initiative.

AN INSPIRATION

Balasaheb inspired every Shivsainik to take up social work and public service and to stand up against injustice and atrocities. He inspired many people from ordinary families to join politics and gave them important designations. Shiv Sena has many such leaders who have risen from grassroots. Their leader spotted their political acumen and gave them the right platforms to grow. These same leaders are playing important roles in the State Cabinet today and are serving people.

Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray went beyond politics and left his mark in many cultural fields such as art, theatre and cinema and enjoyed fan following everywhere. He genuinely loved artists and ensured that their art was duly appreciated. No wonder, even today he is respected by the people as a multifaceted leader, and will continue to be remembered and loved as one.

—Resident Editor, Sakal, Kolhapur

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF DECEMBER 2019



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray accepting the guard of honour from the passing out parade of the 117th batch of Mumbai Police Academy, Nashik.

CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF 117th BATCH OF MAHARASHTRA POLICE ACADEMY

"Police should resolutely shoulder their responsibility to create a robust society. The police uniform is hard-earned, hence the Police Department should take utmost care that their uniform and character must not be dishonoured," said Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the convocation ceremony of the 117th batch of Sub-Inspectors of Police at the Maharashtra Police Academy, Nashik. Minister for Home, Eknath Shinde, Director General of Police, Subodhkumar Jaiswal and Director of the Academy, Ashwathi Dorje were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said that after

the completion of the training, every Sub-Inspector of Police should be ready to accept challenges. The police uniform is not merely a dress, it's a big responsibility. Former police officers had done excellent work to raise the honour of the department. This batch too must take this glorious tradition ahead, he said. He presented awards to the police officers who had performed brilliantly. Santosh Kamte was honoured with the Sword of Honour and Silver Baton in the category of Best Trainee and Best Cadet Indoor Studies, respectively. Vijaya Pawar received the Ahilyabai Holkar Cup Best All Round Women Cadet and Second Best Trainee of the batch, while Sagar Sable was awarded the Gold Cup for Best Cadet in Outdoor.

SUBSIDY TO PADDY CULTIVATORS

To give some relief to farmers, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has approved a subsidy of ₹500 per quintal for paddy cultivators. The Union Government has decided a minimum support price (MSP) for paddy cultivators for the season of 2019-20. There has been a rise in the production cost of paddy farming and it was important to comfort the farmers, who were worried that they would not get sufficient returns from rice cultivation. Hence, a proposal of giving subsidy of ₹500 per quintal in limitation of 50 quintals to paddy cultivators had been submitted to the Chief Minister. The proposal, now approved, aims to give some relief to paddy farmers as this subsidy will give them big financial support during the market season of 2019-20.

AROUND 190 FREE SYMBOLS FOR ELECTIONS

The Maharashtra State Election Commission (MSEC) has registered a total of 260 political parties, of which 16 are recognised parties holding specific election symbols. But now the State Election Commission has decided to give 190 free election symbols to the remaining 244 registered parties and independent candidates, informed U.P.S. Madan, State Election Commissioner.

U.P.S. Madan said that excluding gram panchayats, other local self-government bodies of the State contest the election at party level. Hence, it is obligatory for all related parties to register their names at the MSEC.

Election symbols of the recognised

are included in this list according to the notification of 30 November 2019, and the number of free election symbols has reached up to 190.

MAHARASHTRA ON TOP POSITION IN TREE COVER

According to the Forest Survey of India 2019 report, published by the Government of India, Maharashtra holds the first position in India in tree cover on other than forest field. In 2017, the tree cover was 9831 sq. km., which has been increased up to 10,806 sq. km. in 2019. Tree cover is believed to be increased by 975 sq. km., while the forest cover has increased by 96 sq. km.

The Forest Survey of India is published after every two years to inform about for-

between human and wild animals, it becomes necessary to identify and catch the animal responsible. Earlier, this identification was based on the animal's footprints, and dots and wounds on the body of the human. There is now a need for exact identification of the animal through DNA testing. The State Forest Department, therefore, sends the sample for DNA testing either to Hyderabad or Wildlife Preservation Society of India, Dehradun. According to Section 11 of Wildlife Act 1972 and rules of National Tiger Conservation Authority, one must possess an authorised order to catch any wild animal. Due to the lack of exact identification, forest workers cannot capture the animal responsible for the death of the hu-

ABOUT 16 SQ KM EXPANSION IN FOREST AREA

As reported in the Forest Survey of India 2019, along with the tree cover, there is also a considerable growth in mangrove forests in Maharashtra. This increment is observed especially in Raigad, Mumbai, Thane, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. Maharashtra stood second in the country in the growth of mangrove forests.

The Forest Survey of India has mentioned the name of Maharashtra very prominently, as the State has reserved more than 1,47,814 hectares for the forest sector. This survey has taken note of this remarkable addition and contribution of the State in the area of ecological balance and conservation. Maharashtra uses information technology for forests and wildlife protection, and conservation. This survey praised this initiative of the State and took note of other works such as My Plant app, Maharashtra Harit Sena (Green Soldiers) and Hello Forest 1926 to raise the green cover.



parties that got registration at the MSEC through the Election Commission of India remained reserved for the election for State local bodies. The MSEC has a registration of 16 such recognised parties of which six are national parties, two are State-level parties of Maharashtra, and eight are State-level parties from other States. The remaining 244 symbols are registered political parties that don't have any specific election symbols. Around 48 free election symbols were fixed according to the notification of the MSEC on 18 January 2017. Today, more than 142 symbols

are included in this list according to the notification of 30 November 2019, and the number of free election symbols has reached up to 190.

A FORENSIC LAB TO TEST ANIMALS' DNA

Maharashtra Forest Department has decided to set up a wildlife forensic laboratory aimed at performing DNA analysis of animals. The State Forest Department has become the first in the country to have its own such forensic lab.

When a human life is lost in a conflict

between human and wild animals, it becomes necessary to identify and catch the animal responsible. Earlier, this identification was based on the animal's footprints, and dots and wounds on the body of the human. There is now a need for exact identification of the animal through DNA testing. The State Forest Department, therefore, sends the sample for DNA testing either to Hyderabad or Wildlife Preservation Society of India, Dehradun. According to Section 11 of Wildlife Act 1972 and rules of National Tiger Conservation Authority, one must possess an authorised order to catch any wild animal. Due to the lack of exact identification, forest workers cannot capture the animal responsible for the death of the hu-

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD TO KADACHIT AJUNAH

The Sahitya Akademi has declared *Kadachit Ajunahi*, a poetry collection of Anuradha Patil, as the best book for the award in the Marathi language category. ■

CABINET APPROVALS....

Many people welfare schemes are first approved by the cabinet. Here is a detailed review of the decisions taken recently.

SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG

A decision was taken in the cabinet meeting that the Government will provide an additional fund of ₹3,500 crore as share capital for the Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg. As a result, the interest on the loan amount for the highway will be reduced by ₹2,500 crore. Similarly, there will be no need to provide a guarantee for the loan amount of ₹16,500 crore. According to this, approval has been given to make changes in the sanctioned financial plan for the highway.

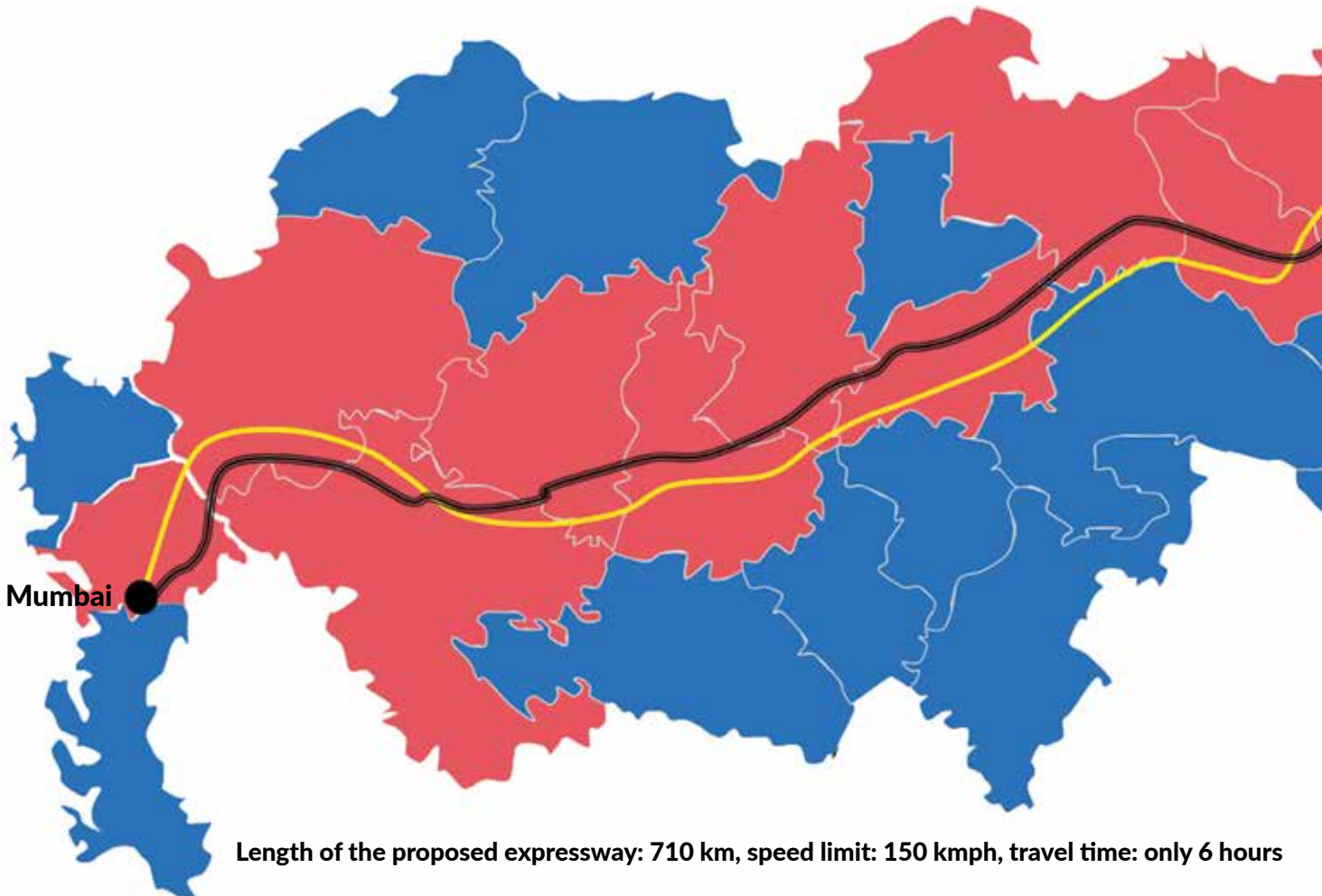
The revised rate of the Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg is ₹55,335

crore, whereas, till now, a loan amount of ₹24,500 crore for this project has been sanctioned as special purpose vehicle NMSCEW Ltd. At present, ₹27,335 crore is the total amount of the part capital of the Government, which includes ₹3,500 crore from the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation, ₹5,500 crore from the public works in the State, ₹2,414 crore as part of royalty on the prices of minor minerals, ₹6,396 crore on account of the interest on the loan amount during the construction period, and ₹9,525 crore owing to the price of land. The Government took

the decision to provide funds worth ₹3,500 crore as a share capital, as lesser the loan amount the more will be the financial security of the project.

INCREASE IN THE LIMIT OF THE CONTINGENCY FUNDS

Approval was given in the State Cabinet meeting to increase the limit of the Maharashtra Contingency Fund and make funds worth ₹5,350 crore available. The contingency fund of the State of Maharashtra has been established under the Mumbai Contingency Rule, 1956. Its permanent limit is ₹150 crore, which needs to be increased temporar-



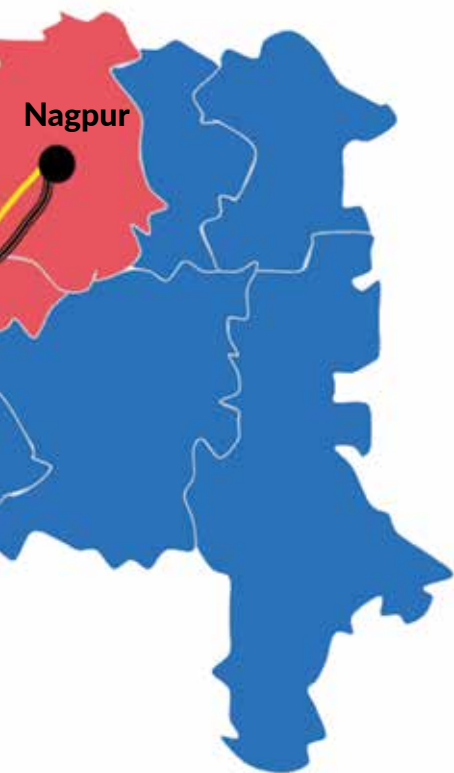
ily from time to time owing to circumstantial reasons.

In the kharif season, the farm crops incurred damage due to the retreating, untimely rainfall in the State and Kyarr cyclone. Primarily, rice, sorghum, pearl millet, maize, groundnut, soybean, pigeon pea, cotton, vegetable crops and fruit crops incurred heavy damage.

Owing to this decision, it will become possible to make available funds of ₹5,000 crore for distribution to the affected farmers on an immediate basis and ₹350 crore for court cases or proceedings through advance.

ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING

To restrict illegal mining and trafficking of minor minerals, the State Cabinet has granted approval to transform the ordinance of giving rights to any revenue officer, authorised by the District Collectors, into an act.



THE 'BEST TEAM' WHO HAS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE'S ISSUES

Today, there are experienced and excellent leaders in our State Cabinet, who have a great knowledge of people's issues and this is the Best Team, said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the first cabinet meeting after the expansion of the cabinet.

"Even though parties of different opinions have come together here, we are united on the question of solving people's issues, as the people have elected us. We have to work as one family, even if there are different views/stands on some issues, we have to only think about the interest of the State. Our Best Team will win on every front and take the State on the further path of progress," added the Chief Minister.

Presently, there is a provision of ownership rights of the Government on mines and minerals under Section 48 of Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966. According to Sub-Section (8), if an officer at a lower rank than that of a tehsildar confiscates equipment and machinery to restrict illegal mining and trafficking of minor minerals, the concerned individuals used to challenge him in court. Hence, this resolution has been made.

In the current situation, if any revenue officer at a lower rank than that of a tehsildar confiscates or hands over equipment and machinery used for illegal mining of minor minerals, it is against the provision in section (8), Part 1. To restrict illegal mining and trafficking of minor minerals, it was necessary to amend the content "having a lower ranking than that of a tehsildar in Sub-clause (8), Part 1". The cabinet has given approval to this amendment.

ADDITIONAL POSTS

The cabinet took a decision to create approximately 5,298 additional posts for the scheduled caste (SC), as much as the number of officers and staff who have lost or going to lose their jobs due to non-submission of their caste validity certificates, and as a humanitarian perspective, provide temporary placement of 11 months to them.

Orders were given to administrative departments to determine the number of SC officers and staff category-wise working in government/semi-government offices under their jurisdiction, shift their services to additional positions, and vacate their current positions by 31 December 2019.

It was also decided that all administrative departments should fill in the above-mentioned vacant positions of the SC category with candidates, who have caste validity documents, as per the prescribed method and placement rules, in a stipulated period.

IMPLEMENTING GST ACT

Both Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) are levied on transactions taking place within Maharashtra. On 1 August 2019, amendments were made to the CGST Act. Since the two taxes (CGST and SGST) were levied on a single transaction and it was necessary to have uniformity in both the laws, the State Cabinet gave approval to make 22 amendments in the Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Amendments have been made to the CGST Act, 2017 and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Act 2017. Accordingly, it was necessary for the State of Maharashtra to make the relevant amendments in the SGST Act. Proposals of various kinds are included in this amendment, such as a mutual plan for taxpayers, establishment of National Appellate Tribunal, easy process for taxpayers and providing relief after solving problems and formulation of the law and technical corrections. ■



Shivneri Fort

SHIVNERI, MAHARASHTRA'S PRIDE

*For a Maharashtrian, visiting a fort is neither a recreational activity nor tourism. Instead, it is a matter of great pride, as the visit is a way to pay homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. We have grown up listening to the ballads of the valour of the great leader and his soldiers or Mawlas. The moment we enter any fort that is related to the legend, we tend to slip into our glorious past, more so in the case of Shivneri, the fort where Shivraya was born. The fort enjoys special status amongst all the other forts related to him, says **Sarang Khanapurkar**.*

Shivba or Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born in Shivneri in 1630. Two years later, in 1632, Jijau (Jijamata, Shivba's mother) left the fort taking him along. In 1637, Shivneri Fort fell into the hands of the Mughals. These incidents help us understand the changing situations at the time of Shivba's birth and the importance of *Swarajya* (self-rule), which Shivraya es-

tablished during such difficult times. Even though Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had spent only two years in the Shivneri Fort, his admirers still believe it to be of immense significance as it was also his birthplace. Shivraya ignited the flame of valour in the hearts of the Marathi people because of which even today we are living in this world with dignity. Hence, it is our duty to pay homage to Chhatrapati Shiv-

aji Maharaj by paying a visit to his birthplace—the Shivneri Fort.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHIVNERI FORT

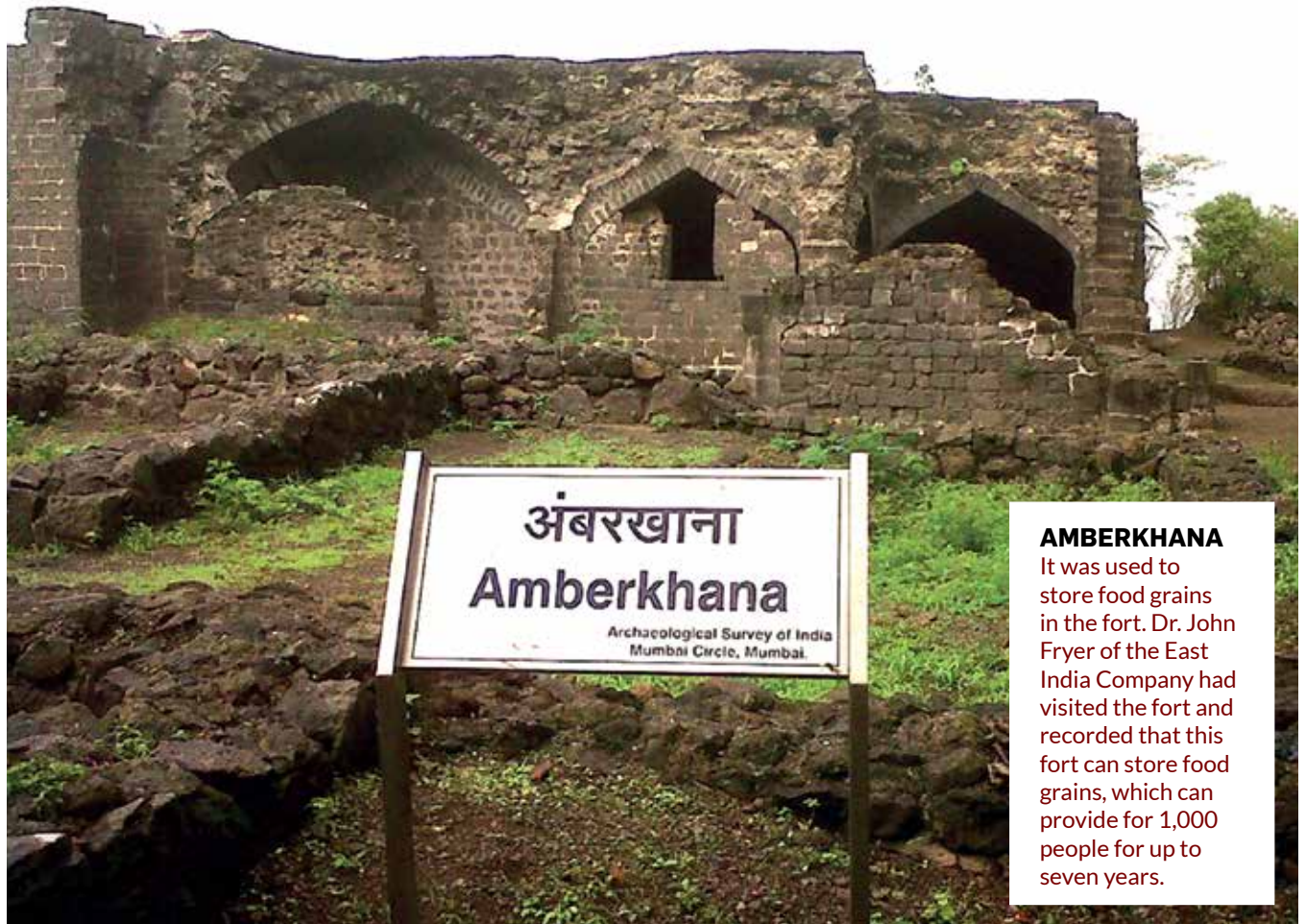
Jirnanagar, or Junnar, was the capital city of the Shaka king, Nahapana. Gautamiputra Satavahana Satakarni defeated the Shakas and established his supremacy over Junnar and the surrounding region.



Birthplace of Shivaji Maharaj

Naneghat (a mountain pass) was dug during the Satavahana period. And because trade took place on a large scale through Naneghat, the fort of Shivneri was built to keep an eye on the commercial activities. Of course, this is not the only fort protecting Naneghat. Notable forts such as Narayangad in the east, Harishchandragad in the north, Hadsar, Chavand, Jeevdhan, Bhairavgad in the west, and Rajmachi, Dhak, Gorakshagad, Machhindragad and Siddhagad in the south stand tall on all sides like gatekeepers.

After Satavahanas, Shivneri was in the possession of Chalukya, Yadav, Bahamani and Nizam. It came under the control of Malojiraje Bhosle in 1595. In 1630, Jijau, Bhosle's daughter-in-law, gave birth to Shivba, setting Maharashtra on the path of victory and glory for centuries to come. In the fort there is a temple dedicated to Goddess Shivai after who the child was



AMBERKHANA

It was used to store food grains in the fort. Dr. John Fryer of the East India Company had visited the fort and recorded that this fort can store food grains, which can provide for 1,000 people for up to seven years.

named Shivaji. After Shivneri was captured by the Mughals, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj made several efforts to regain it but that did not happen in his lifetime. In 1716, Shahu Maharaj captured the fort and brought it under Swarajya. It was in the fort of Shivneri that on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj, the independent State of Maharashtra was created on 27 April 1960.

PLACES TO VISIT

The Shivneri Fort is triangular-shaped like the tip of an arrow which points north. Its expanse is about 1.6 km, and it takes about two to three hours to tour the fort.

Entry Routes: There are two ways to enter the fort—chain route, or *sakhlichivaa*, which is a bit difficult, and the Satavahana-period route through the seven gates that is comparatively easier. The chain route is on the side of the fort and

is called thus because one has to hold a chain link to climb up to the fort gate.

The seven gates, or *saat darwaja*, are very strategically built from the viewpoint of security. The route is made up of convenient-to-climb stairs. The names of the gates are Maha Darwaja, Pir Darwaja, Parwani Darwaja, Hatti Darwaja, Shipai Darwaja, Fatak Darwaja and Kulabkar Darwaja. There are pictures of *Sharabh* on both sides of the Parwani Gate. *Sharabh* is a mythological creature that looks like a lion or tiger. Here, an elephant has been shown beneath the foot of *Sharabh*. There is also a picture of a mythological bird named *Gandabherunda*. There are pictures on the arch of the Soldier's Gate as well. The fortified wall of this gate indicates why this fort is called the protector of Junnar.

Shivai Goddess Temple: While passing through the seven gates of the fort

and upon entering through the Soldier's Gate, there's a temple of Goddess Shivai. Behind the temple are about six to seven rock-cut caves. However, these are not accessible. The temple is a rock-cut sculpture. From the temple, returning by the Soldier's Gate, one can climb upstairs to reach the top of the fort from where one can see the Amberkhana (grain store).

Water Cisterns: There are water cisterns in the fort, namely Ganga and Yamuna. They contain water throughout the year. Besides, there are around 50 big and small water ponds in the fort. There is enough water in these ponds as well.

Shivkunj: It has a splendid sculpture of young Shivaji with a sword in his hand, describing his dreams to his mother, Jijamata. Nearby, a book by Ramchandra Amatya named *Aadnyapatra* is on display. The first Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Yashwantrao Chavan had laid the founda-



Shivkunj

tion stone for Shivkunj. Right in front of Shivkunj is a double-storeyed building. At the ground floor of this building, Shivba was born. A statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been built here.

Idgah and Koli Chauthara: These are located on the right-hand side of Ambarkhanna. In 1650, when the fort was under the control of Mughals, people from the Koli community of Junnar region revolted against them. The Mughals crushed the revolt, captured the Koli people, brought

them to Shivneri and massacred them. The raised platform where the Koli people were beheaded is called Koli Chauthara.

The Kamnawaza Mosque is situated to the right side in front of the birthplace. Adjacent to this mosque is the fort's escape route (secret route) which leads straight into Junnar.

Badami talav lies at the north of the birthplace. This man-made lake has a raised platform and arch. Following an attack by the British, the spring water in this pond



Kadelot

got choked and later the pond became dry. There is a prison facility behind the pond which is now in a dilapidated condition.

Kadelot Kadaa is situated just behind the prison facility. Criminals were pushed down from this cliff into the valley. There are strong, gusty winds at this cliff, which is at a height of about 2000 feet. One should be very careful while visiting the site.

The fort of Shivneri remained in obscurity for a long period. In 1925 restoration work on the birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was undertaken. After the creation of Maharashtra, a road was constructed till the gate of the fort. Even today, the work of beautification of the fort is being carried out.

SALIENT FEATURES OF SHIVNERI:

Height from sea level: 3500 feet

Height from base level: 1000 feet

Base village: Junnar

Tourist places near Shivneri: One of the Lenyadris or caves of Ashtavinayak, Narayangad, the world-famous radio telescope at Khodad, Harishchandragad, Otur village and Vighneshwar temple at Ozar. ■



HOW TO REACH SHIVNERI?

From Pune: The fort is located at Junnar in Pune district. Shivneri is at a distance of 105 km from Pune city. One can reach Junnar by State transport buses.

From Mumbai: One can reach Junnar by Mumbai-Thane-Kalyan-Alephata route. After crossing Malshej Ghat on the Kalyan-Nagar highway, the route to Shivneri is at a distance of about 8 km. The fort is at a distance of 19 km from there.

From Nashik: Junnar via Narayangaon

One can visit the fort and return in a single day even if travelling from Mumbai or Pune.

REGISTRATION AND STAMP DUTY GETS EASIER AND FASTER

Registration and Stamp Department has implemented various initiatives to speed up processes in the service areas of Registration of Documents and Stamp Duty Management. The purpose of this article is to carry information about these initiatives so citizens can use them effectively, says
Nayana Bondarde-Gurav.

The Registration and Stamp Department of the Government of Maharashtra has implemented various initiatives with a view to get the work of concerned citizens done in an easy, transparent and swift manner in the service areas of Registration of Documents and Stamp Duty Management. The purpose of this article is to transmit information about these initiatives to citizens and to engage them in using these to the maximum.

This time we are focusing on the Online Digital Document Submission initiative started by the department. The initiative is connected to the method of document registration carried out at the Deputy Registrar Office.



The first in the series of articles on Registration and Stamp Duty, the current article shares information about the online digital document submission initiative of the department.



PREVALENT METHOD

When individuals carry out transactions, they generally prepare a document for the deal or get the same prepared by experts such as advocates. Following the payment of appropriate stamp duty, the documents are signed. For registering the document, the facility of public data entry at the department website is used to enter the data. The original document is then submitted to the concerned Deputy Registrar Office for registration. The Deputy Registrar checks the document and, if considered eligible, it is accepted for registration. The process of registration is completed by obtaining photographs and thumb impressions of the parties. Afterwards, the complete document with attached copies, photos and pages, where the thumb impressions are obtained (known as Goshwara-Abstract Part 1 and Part 2), are merged together and the pagination is done. A stamp of the Deputy Registrar Office is affixed on the document. This integrated document is then scanned and returned to the parties.

CHALLENGES

While a review of the method from the point of view of professional ease

was carried out, the department realised that when the parties arrive at the Deputy Registrar Office for document registration, the Deputy Registrar has to verify the evaluation of property, decide on the stamp duty, check any laws or restrictions imposed by the court on any transfer of the registered property, among others. Considering the format of these verifications, it is natural that it would take some time and the concerned parties would have to wait at the office till then.

The lack of any particular document may become a reason for the Deputy Registrar to defer registration and the concerned parties have to come back to the office some other day after complying with the rules. If the discrepancies are known in advance, the trip of the concerned parties can be saved.

It is necessary to reduce the time taken for pagination of the original document, affixing Deputy Registrar Office stamp on the same and scanning of the document.

With the scanning, the data size increases tremendously and future handling of such large data is going to be a challenging task from the point of expenditure and technology.

Considering all these aspects together, the department has developed Online Digital Document Submission facility and the same has been made available to citizens from 1 April 2019.

FORMAT

While using this facility, the parties have to prepare their document according to the prevalent method only. However, instead of issuing the same (signing on the same), the word file of the same is to be converted to a pdf document. This pdf file is to be uploaded on the website of the department after the data entry is done.

The data entry and the uploaded draft of the document will be received by the Deputy Registrar Office online and the Deputy Registrar will verify the document. If there are certain objections in accepting the document for registration, the office will share its comments. The concerned parties can see these comments from Deputy Registrar at the public data entry section of the website. They

out the pagination of pages with signatures of parties, other documents attached and abstract part 1 and part 2, affix the stamp of the Deputy Registrar Office and scan these pages. The draft sent by the parties will be stamped and pagination will be done in the system itself. The draft and scanned pages will be merged into the system.

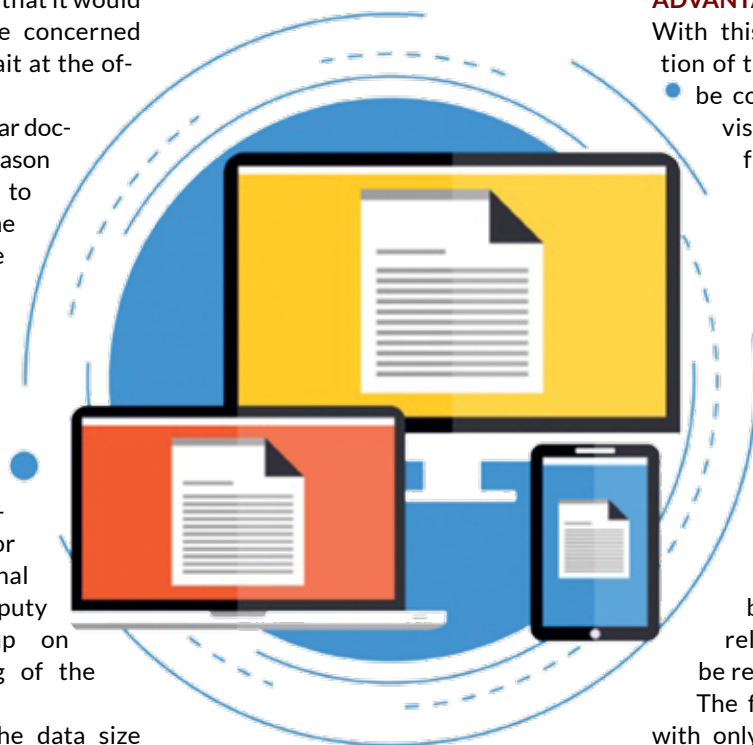
ADVANTAGES

With this new facility, the verification of the proposed documents can be completed before the parties visit the Deputy Registrar Office. They will receive pre-intimation if there are certain discrepancies. Thus, the time for verification by Deputy Registrar as well as waiting period will be reduced. The manpower and time required for the pagination, stamping and scanning of the original document will be reduced. This will accelerate the work. As the scanning data size will be limited, the challenges related to data storage will be reduced.

The facility is currently available with only certain offices in Mumbai and will be made available in the near future in other cities as well. It has been recently activated and is in the primary stage. The department will be making efforts for expansion and upgrade of the initiative for the inclusion of features such as documents issued earlier, preparation of documents using departmental drafts, and auto scrutiny of documents.

We encourage citizens to utilise this facility and share any suggestion or difficulty they face in using the facility on the number 8888007777. The response will empower the department to make the facility more people oriented and easier to use.

—Joint Registration Inspector General and Stamp Duty Superintendent (Headquarters), Pune



will also receive an SMS about the same. This action will be carried out within three working days from the day of filing the application/documents.

Compliance from the concerned parties to the discrepancies, if any informed by the Deputy Registrar, is expected. In case no discrepancies are received, the concerned parties can visit the office of the Deputy Registrar on the day appointed and get the document registered.

While registering the document, the Deputy Registrar will provide the parties with a print out of the draft document received online. The parties will sign the same. This will complete the document registration process. After this, the Deputy Registrar will carry



ENSURE **SAFE** ONLINE BANKING

*Generally, online banking refers to the ability of managing money online with your mobile device or computer. There is no need to visit a bank branch, and you can do what you need to do when it is most convenient for you. Online banking services are easier to use, often free or inexpensive, and have other qualities, making these a favourite among all customers. Initially, the service used to be limited to banks that operated exclusively online; now, even big brick-and-mortar banks and local credit unions offer online services. That said, you can still use an online-only bank keeping in mind the pros and cons of different choices listed below, says **Adv. Prashant Mali**.*

There are numerous benefits to online banking, and it is worth at least having the option to bank online. However, traditional banks and credit unions also have their place. Here are some pros and cons of online banking services:

In-person services: Banks do more than just hold money and shuffle it around. They can also provide notary services, safety deposit boxes, and official checks in an instant. You might not need those services often, but when you do, it is typically during an important event. Evaluate whether or not it makes sense to keep a local account open.

Technology issues: If you are not comfortable with technology, online banking may be more trouble than it is worth. Plus, glitches happen, and if your computer or the bank's computer is not working, then there is not much you can do. For complex situations like pesky customer service issues or discussions about different types of loans, it might be best to have a face-to-face conversation.

NO CASH?

There is also the issue of getting cash. Online-only banks typically provide a debit card that you can use to withdraw cash, and they may

even belong to networks with free ATM access.

From 24-hour access to your account, anytime fund transfers and bill payments, it's no surprise that over half of our population prefers online banking to traditional banking. But, if you are not careful, banking from the comfort of your living room exposes you to several security risks that can be avoided if you are very careful. Here are 10 practical online-banking security tips that will help you have a safer online banking experience:

MONITOR YOUR ACCOUNTS

It might seem simple, but avoiding

online fraud also means doing your bit by checking your bank statements every month and contacting them if you notice any suspicious charges, credits or debits.

USE A SECURE LOCATION/SITES/ NETWORK WHEN BANKING ONLINE

Free and public Wi-Fi networks are often not encrypted, making you an easy target for hackers to steal your personal information. Ideally, leave all your financial workings for when you are on a secure network at home and, when possible, use a dedicated browser for banking. But, if you are in a pinch, find a private spot and use your smartphone data hotspot to transact.

Another thing to watch out for is making sure your bank's website has the lock symbol in the web address bar and begins with 'https'. This means that the site is definitely encrypted and all data is converted into unreadable gibberish before it is sent, thus keeping your private information safe.

ALWAYS LOG OUT

Avoid falling prey to session hijacking and cross-site scripting exploits by always logging out of your online banking session when you are done. Computer or cell phone, you can add another layer of protection by using a private browser that clears its cache at the end of every session.

ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

You can prevent identity theft and all its many complications by simply using an extra layer of security also called multi-factor authentication. Many banks natively offer two-factor authentication where, whenever you try and log in, the bank sends you a text message or email with a unique verification code to be input on the bank's website along with your username and password.

BEWARE OF EMAIL SCAMS

No bank worth its salt would ever ask you to share sensitive, personal information or account details over an email or a text message. Whenever a



CREATE STRONG PASSWORDS AND CHANGE THEM REGULARLY

The very first rule of safe banking comes down to creating a strong password and changing it on a regular basis. Always use random strings of lowercase and uppercase letters, numbers, and symbols when asked to create a strong password. Be safe and never use anything personal, viz., no birthdays, pet's names or favourite foods.

complaint is raised, the bank will always contact you personally and verify it is you by asking your account number and personal questions around information you have submitted earlier.

Phishing scams are just one kind of

Today, over half of our population prefer online banking to traditional banking due to its convenience and promptness. However, if one is not careful, online banking from the comfort of one's living room exposes one to several security risks. These risks can be avoided if one is careful.

frauds that asks for your bank details so that they can deposit millions as a prize you have just won or as incentive to help someone in need. Ideally never respond to any of these emails. But, if you want confirmation on what to do next, contact your bank using the

official numbers/email addresses from your bank's website or via their other authentic handles and authorised channels.

USE ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

One of the simplest things you can do to safeguard your personal information is to set up, run and regularly update anti-virus software that will screen everything from your emails and browsers to even your pop-up ads.

UPDATE YOUR OPERATING SYSTEMS

Software updates can feel a bit tiresome but they often include necessary security upgrades that prevent infection by newer computer malware. Never skip suggested updates and try and install the latest edition of your operating system to ensure your data is safe.

ONLY USE OFFICIAL BANKING APPS

Much like the original Trojan horse, vicious malware can sneak in and cause some serious damage if unintentionally downloaded. The good news is that your bank's encrypted mobile app is probably the most secure place you can transact. Just do not forget to install updates with latest security features and only use apps from known or authorised sources.

As technology develops and gets ever savvier, so do the risks you face online. By staying vigilant and following the tips above, you can ensure you have a safe and easy Internet-banking experience. Safe banking!

—The writer is a cyber law and cyber security expert.

USE BANKING NOTIFICATIONS

Most banks provide customers with text and email alerts for various purposes. It ranges from getting a notification when there is a transaction over a certain amount, when your balance dips below a certain amount, and more. Use these notifications to alert you every time your account is accessed. Always keep your bank's assistance numbers handy, in case you see a transaction you did not initiate and need to stop it immediately.



ON A WINNING TRAIL

The life of Hemant Keshav Patil, Indian Administrative Service, Rank 39, Year 2018, is an inspirational story of hard work, dedication and human spirit. A student of an Ashramshala and later of Indian Institute of Technology, he focused on studying with a clear and firm strategy to achieve his goal of becoming a civil servant and serve the country.

Usually, people find their heroes in celebrities and public figures, but if you ask me, my proverbial guiding light has been my father. I grew up watching his random acts of kindness. To bring a difference to the lives of poor tribal children from Shilottar village in Palghar district, he took a tough decision of quitting his full-time job with a good salary and became a teacher in the ashram school there. Since childhood, I understood what it meant to live for others and society at large. Therefore, even while growing up, I was clear about having a career that could give me financial stability, and at the same time allow me to fulfil my social responsibility.

TURNING POINT

I finished my schooling from an *ashramshala*. I acquired my B.Tech (Chemical) degree from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere (district Raigad). After getting an IIT degree, I worked as an engineer in Ankleshwar, Gujarat. But I always wanted to do something meaningful in life. I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps, to continue his legacy to serve society. This realisation became a turning point in my career. With a strong urge to bring about a change in the lives of common, poor and deprived people, I decided to appear for a competitive examination. My elder brother based in Pune is an M.Tech from IIT Kharagpur. I am fortunate to get his as well as

my father's support. Throughout my journey, they have stood by me, encouraging me whenever I lost track or felt demotivated.

PREPARATION AND SUCCESS

After quitting the job at Ankleshwar, I decided to prepare for the Union Public Service Commission examination and devoted all my time to it. Some of my friends were preparing for competitive

examinations from Pune. Their guidance helped me a lot. For a couple of days, I attended a few classes too, but kept the emphasis on self-study. Even though my first two attempts were unsuccessful, I took the results as a learning experience and did a self-analysis to overcome such debacles in future.

As luck would have it, in the third attempt, I succeeded in the preliminary and main examinations and the interview round. I was selected for the Indian Revenue Service, but wanted to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). I started preparing for the examinations yet again. In the meantime, I was appointed as a Trainee Assistant Commissioner. Before I could complete the training at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, my efforts were rewarded and I cleared the IAS exam with 39th rank.

IPS officer Mahesh Bhagwat from Hyderabad was a guiding force. He prepared a group of deserving candidates from Maharashtra and gave individual attention to each one of us. Many good officers in administration are willing to take a lead, but there is a lack of leadership. I hope to fill that gap someday.



Hemant Keshav Patil
IAS, Rank 39, Year 2018

Success is one per cent luck and ninety-nine per cent perspiration holds true if you aspire to clear the Indian Administrative Service exam. Every topper has studied the same set of books as lakhs of aspirants do every year. The difference lies in planning and executing those plans well.

STUDY VERSUS STRATEGY

Cracking the IAS is tough but if you prepare well and study hard, it can be done. Definitely, it requires a lot of preparation, but how much, is something that an individual needs to strategise depending on one's stamina and capability. You need to plan the study strategy, such as how

LEARN FROM MISTAKES

Recognising your flaws while preparing for examinations is important but what's most crucial is to correct those mistakes. Not correcting mistakes is also one of the reasons for failure. Even if you are confident about being successful, it's advisable to keep your plan B ready. Being practical is always a good idea, as in most cases, after the second or third attempt, aspirants tend to get depressed and demotivated. If you are ready with plan B at the back of your mind, it will help you handle failure in a pragmatic way.



much you need to prepare and which course needs more attention. When it is done, set a time target—long term or short term—to accomplish it.

In the first two attempts, I had opted for geography as an optional subject, but later I found it monotonous and chose anthropology. Coming from a tribal area and with friends knowing other vernacular dialects, it became easy for me to prepare for this subject. Hence, I reiterate that preparation for this examination can change one's personality. Reading the newspapers regularly is one of its aspects. Your ability to form an opinion and analyse various issues is greatly enhanced by reading the newspaper daily.

DIFFICULTIES AS CHALLENGES

Struggles and challenges are a part of life; for some, it could be a struggle for money, while for others it could be about emotional, personal or social issues. In my case too, I remember, after the failure of my second and third attempts, my relatives started asking if I intended to try again. So, my only suggestion to aspiring candidates is don't give up because that's the easiest thing to do. Giving up is something anyone can do. To be extraordinary, you have to learn to rise above the ordinary. Accept these difficulties as challenges and keep moving ahead.

My only suggestion to aspiring candidates is don't give up because that's the easiest thing to do. I never gave up after my three failed attempts. Giving up is something that even an ordinary person can do. So to be extraordinary, you have to learn to rise above the ordinary. Accept these difficulties as challenges and keep moving ahead.

CRACK THE INTERVIEW

The interview is comparatively easier because it is usually based on the content of your bio-data. Hence self-analysis is a must before you appear for your interview round. I would suggest staying away from giving politically correct replies. Instead, keep your replies simple, concise and honest.

I recall, during my first interview attempt, I gave a couple of false answers, but the next time I made sure to keep my replies simple. The interview was in English, so I would suggest having a direct dialect without counting or depending on a translator. Simple and lucid replies in English can have a better

impact. But, if someone wants to give an interview in Marathi, that is also a good option.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

While appearing for competitive examinations, it's important to analyse the impact of social media and consider its pros and cons. I stayed away from Facebook, but used WhatsApp to my advantage. I had joined few study groups on WhatsApp and that enabled me to remain updated. However, make sure it doesn't cause any kind of distraction or create hindrance in your studies. Always remember, the Internet should be used as a medium to get information.

SUCCESS MANTRA

As they say, there's no shortcut to success, so work hard. Don't get burdened by the syllabus and try to enjoy studies and be successful. Hard work definitely is the key to success. It doesn't matter to which class or caste you belong. If you are ready to sweat it out, there's nothing that can stop you from being a winner.

—Rajaram Devkar



BUTTERFLY, WHAT'S THY NAME?

English names were assigned to 1,500 species of butterflies from India and 279 from Maharashtra. In an interesting initiative, Chairman of Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Vilas Bardekar and his colleagues have given these species Marathi names.

Have you ever heard the name *Neelvant*? This is the Marathi name of Blue Mormon, the State Butterfly of Maharashtra. The name has been given by Vilas Bardekar, Chairman, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, and his colleagues.

Names in English were given to the 1,500 species of butterflies found in India and 279 from Maharashtra. With the thought of having names in Marathi for them, Bardekar and his colleagues renamed the species. These butterflies now have beautiful Marathi names such as *Trimandal*, *Tarang*, *Manmauji*, *Yamini*, *Ruikar*, *Ratnamala*, *Talwar*, *Puchha*, *Gadad Sardar*, *Bhatkya*, *Mayuresh* and *Nayak*. This is the first of its kind initiative in India. Before naming the species, a lot of thought was put into choosing names that relate to their appearances and habits. Then, five types of categories were made. These were based on colour, appearance and the wings of butterflies, which led to names such as *Trimandal* and *Tarang*. Features such as habits, style of wing flapping and resting positions were also considered, from which names such as *Manmauji* were finalised.

Depending on their food habits, names such as *Yamini* and *Ruikar* came. The butterfly which sits on grass was named as *Trunasur*. The habitat of the butterflies was also studied from which names such as *Ratnamala* originated. Names such as *Neelvanti*, *Talwar*, *Puchha*, *Gadad Sardar*, *Bhatkya*, *Mayuresh* are based on their appearances. The Yamfly butterfly generally feeds on plants and flora and is, therefore, named *Yamini*. Grass Demon has been renamed as *Trunasur*, which is the literal translation of its English name, and Blue Oakleaf butterfly has been renamed as *Neelparna*.

Not only have the butterflies been renamed in Marathi, but the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board has also established their groups (butterfly family) in Marathi. Thus, Nymphalidae has been renamed as *Kunchalpad*, Hesperidae has been renamed as *Chapalkul* and Lycaenidae is called *Neelkul*. Similarly, family names such as *Puchha*, *Mugdhapankhi* and *Kul* have been established. The Forest Department has recently published a book of the new Marathi names of all these butterflies along with their details and beautiful photographs.

—Dr. Surekha Mulay, Departmental Liasoning Officer

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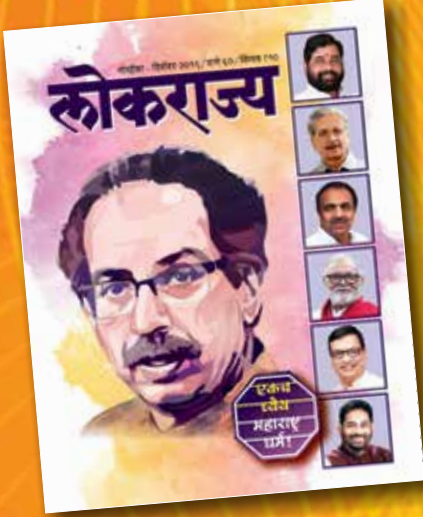


On Mahaparinirvan Day at Chaityabhoomi, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Legislative Assembly Speaker Nana Patole, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and other dignitaries paid their tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.



Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Nana Patole, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and others paid tributes to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at BIT chawl in Parel.

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