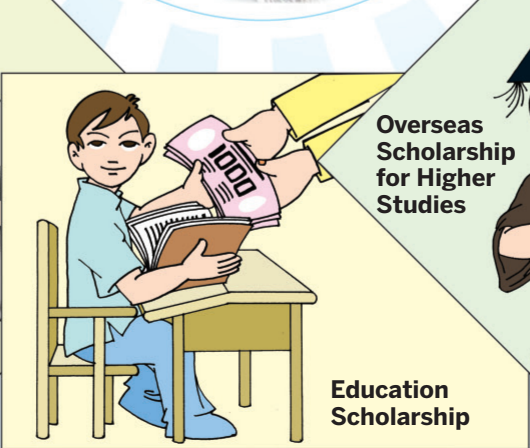
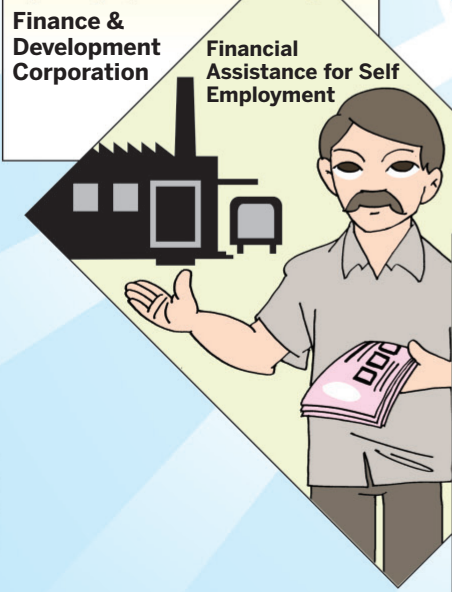
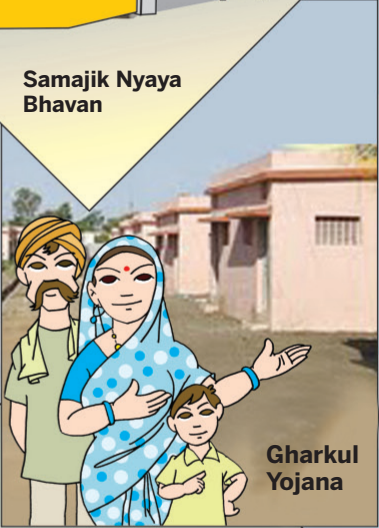
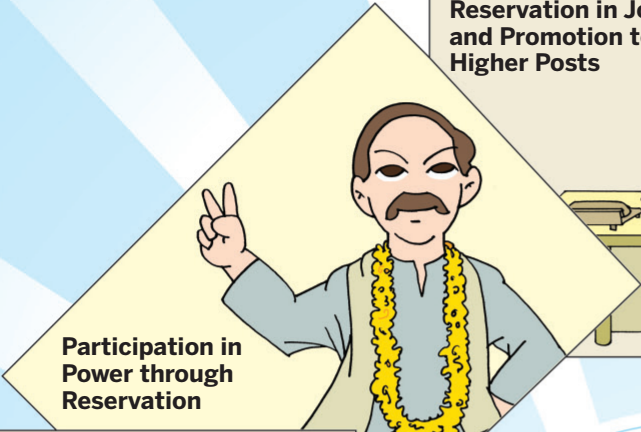
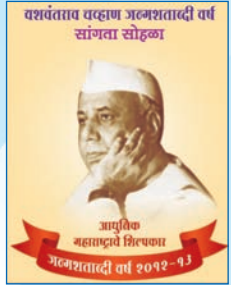


MAHARASHTRA AHEAD



RABHA

New Era in Social Justice

Awards and Felicitations

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR SAMAJ BHUSHAN PURASKAR

This award is given to people working for the betterment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, and the people working for the betterment of persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities and leprosy patients. The award was started from 1971-72.

The award is given every year on April 14 on the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.



SHAHU, PHULE ABEDKAR DALIT VASTI IMPROVEMENT AND CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN

Shahu, Phule Abedkar Dalit Vasti Improvement and Cleanliness Campaign In order to elevate the living standard of Scheduled Castes living in backward colonies and to increase their participation

to achieve cleanliness and social equality in these colonies, the Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar Dalit Vasti Improvement and Cleanliness Campaign is being implemented in the State. Under this Campaign, the prizes at Panchayat Samiti, district , revenue and State level has been given to Gram Panchayats for effective implementation of the Campaign. The Prizes under this campaign have been given as:

At Panchayat Samiti level : First Prize - Rs. 25,000 • Second Prize-Rs 15,000 • Third Prize -Rs 10,000

At District level : First Prize -Rs 5 lakh • Second Prize- Rs 3 lakh • Third Prize- Rs. 2 lakh

At Revenue Circle level : One Gram Panchayat Receives prize of Rs 10 lakh

At State level : First Prize- Rs 25 lakh • Second Prize- Rs. 15 lakh • Third Prize- Rs. 12.50 lakh

SHAHU-PHULE-AMBEDKAR AWARDS

The prestigious award is given to urban and rural local self-government institutions, voluntary organisations, Government Departments and Co-operative organisations for their outstanding contribution to improve social justice in the State. The award of Rs.15 lakh is given is given to 6 organisations one each from 6 divisions.

The award was started from 2005-06 and is given every year on June 26 on the Social Justice Day.



New Era in Social Justice...

The month of March is associated with the Central and State Budgets. Just as we plan the whole year in January for our personal issues, the Nation and States present their budgets within available financial resources. The Budget helps in accelerating annual growth of the Nation and States.

The death anniversary of the erstwhile Chief Minister of the State and Freedom Fighter Loknete Vasantdada Patil is observed on March 1st. The Great Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj who laid his life as a martyr for Swarajya also falls on March 1st. World Consumer Day is celebrated on 15th March to make consumers aware about protecting their rights. 8th March is celebrated as the International Women's Day to protect their self esteem and their empowerment at various levels.

12th March is the Birth anniversary of late Yashwantrao Chavan, the Architect of Modern Maharashtra. Over the last year the State and the country has celebrated his Birth Centenary by taking various initiatives. The birth centenary celebrations of Yashwantrao Chavan will be concluded in this month.

Yashwantrao Chavan by giving topmost priority to social assimilation, during his tenure as the Chief Minister chalked out and effectively implemented various policies and schemes for progress of downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. He also carried out further the thought process imbibed by the trinity of great social reformers Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Mahatma Jotiba Phule. The issue of 'Maharashtra Ahead' on Social Justice is a real tribute to this visionary on the occasion of concluding function of his Birth Centenary Year.

Social Welfare Department is one of the oldest departments of Maharashtra administration. Since pre-independence, various schemes were implemented for educational, socio-economic development of marginalized sections of the Society to bring them into mainstream. These efforts were further accelerated after independence.

With the inheritance of great social reformers Phule-Shahu-Ambedkar, over last 50 years the administration and the Government has paid special attention to the development of weaker sections, resulting in excellent educational and hostel facilities to these section. Scholarship schemes for higher education within the country and abroad is being implemented effectively. Special Training Centres have been started to give more opportunities in State and National Administrative services to the youth from these sections. With the financial assistance for employment and self employment, they have become economically self-sufficient, elevating their social status. Maharashtra is the only State making

budgetary provisions in the ratio of population of Scheduled Caste. Implementation of Gharkul Yojana and Dalit Vasti Improvement Scheme has helped to uplift standard of living of these sections of the society.

The Corporations like Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation, Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation, Vasantrao Naik Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation, Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Development Corporation, Other Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation have been established with adequate share capital to implement various schemes. The success stories of beneficiaries of these Corporations, included in the issue will definitely encourage and inspire others.

An independent Commissionerate, for the welfare of handicapped has provided a new direction to their empowerment. A time bound programme to fill the backlog of handicapped in the Government service is implemented.

The Social Justice Department has undertaken an ambitious programme of constructing Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyaya Bhawan at all District headquarters to bring all offices of Social Justice under one roof saving time and money of the beneficiaries of the various schemes. This Bhawan will become important Socio-cultural Centre of each District.

The issue has covered various aspects of social justice; their detailed reviews. This bears testimony to the commitment of the Government for implementation of various schemes for these sections of the society.

The nostalgic special articles depicting the enormity of the tenure of Late Yashwantrao Chavan are also included in the issue.

Hope readers will welcome this issue as in the past.

Pramod T. Nalawade
Editor-in-Chief, 'Maharashtra Ahead', DGIPR

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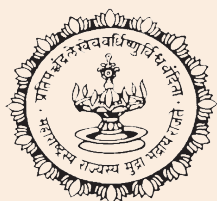
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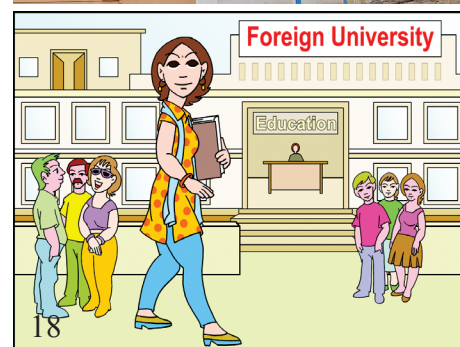
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Directorate General of Information
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Absolute Constitutional Responsibility...

The concept of “Socially Justified Budget” has also become a reality only in Maharashtra.

It is a Constitutional responsibility of the Government to protect the social, economic and educational interests of the weaker sections of the society especially Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to protect them from all types of exploitation. With this in view various Schemes are operational and their implementation as well as enough funding is being made available for the same. The concept of Social Justice has truly come to life in Maharashtra State due to these efforts alone.. explains the Chief Minister **Prithviraj Chavan**.



We have incurred a huge loss due to the social structure based on the caste system in our Country. The system which was based on professions in the earlier stages in the course of time got stuck with a caste forever. We are experiencing the bitter fruits of this system which created a sort of a descending slope. Eradication of the caste system was tried by many saints and sages as well as social reformers. Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj initiated a social equality movement and it achieved

successes to certain extent. The Government is also trying to remove the evil effects of this system and the resultant social, economic, and cultural inequality.

To work for social equality is not only the responsibility of the Government but also a duty of every enlightened citizen. It is particularly a prominent duty and responsibility of the Government anointing itself as a “People Welfare State”. This is because under the provisions of Para 46 of the Constitution it has been ordained to be the duty of every constituent and the State Government to carefully protect the educational and economic interests and further protect the weaker sections especially Scheduled Castes and Tribes from social injustice and all types of exploitation. With this objective various Schemes are operational and their effective implementation is carried out through adequate funding made available for the same. The concept of Social Justice has truly come to life in Maharashtra State due to these efforts alone. Going even further the concept of “Socially Justified Budget” has also become a reality only in Maharashtra.

The Social Justice Department

that functions today is one of the oldest Departments in the State Administration existing as Social Welfare Department. In accordance with the Government Resolution No. 4370 dated the 5th November 1927, Start Committee was established under the Chairmanship of ICS Officer Shri. O. H. B. Start. The Committee consisted of 10 members including Dr. Babasheb Ambedkar. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in 1930. Accordingly Backward Class Welfare Department was established at Mumbai in 1932 for the backward communities. Shri. Start was the first Director of the Department.

In 1947, the office of the Director, Backward Class Welfare was shifted to Pune. The foundation stone for the Directorate building at Pune was laid on the 9th August 1947 at the hands of the then Minister for Industries, Fisheries and Backward Class Welfare, Ganapati Devji Tapase. On the 23rd September 1957 the offices of the Inspector of, Certified Schools and the Director of, Backward Class Welfare were amalgamated and the Social Welfare Department was established. The Tribal Welfare Department was separated from



Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Samajik Nyaya Bhawan

Social Welfare in 1982, Women and Child Development Department was separated in 1991. In 1999 the Handicapped Welfare Department was separated from Social Welfare and in the year 2000 the Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes and Other Backward Class and Special Backward Class Welfare Department was separated. After this Social Justice and Special Assistance Department was established as an independent department. The sole objective of separating other departments from earlier Social Welfare Department was to provide more justice to everyone.

Through all these Departments the welfare schemes for the neglected constituents from the Society are

being implemented on a large scale. The public awareness is going to be of immense help in eradicating this discrimination. Through various Awards such as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Dalit Mitra Award, Sant Rohidas Award, Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Award, Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar Awards, Padmashree Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Award and Vyasankuti Seva Puraskar, we are felicitating people excellently working in this field. The idea behind felicitating these people through the Awards is to acknowledge their contribution and also to induce others to emulate them.

Establishment of Social Justice or Social equality will not be achieved just by implementation of Acts and

schemes. These are directional tools on the path of equality. However everyone from the Society must share and contribute in this endeavour. Freedom, equality and brotherhood are Universal standards of Humanity. Everyone should understand clearly that the meagerness or greatness is decided by his deeds and character. On this occasion I appeal for everyone to take a pledge for contributing to usher in an era of equality and establishment of social justice at the progressive State of Maharashtra. I am confident that the efforts of the Government to bring the dreams of Phule-Shahu-Ambedkar Trio to reality would receive active support from everyone. ■

The State of Social Justice...

The State Government has earmarked substantial funds for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in proportion with their population.

The State is making significant strides in agriculture, industry, economy, culture as well as the social indicators. We must not forget that this success stands on the strong foundation of the principles of social equality and harmony. My policy has always been to ensure that backward, weaker and destitute classes of the society get their just rights, and priority must be given to any work related to them....says the Deputy Chief Minister **Ajit Pawar**.

Maharashtra is the land of progressive and forward-looking people. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jotiba Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and many other great social reformers from our history sowed the seeds of equality and social justice in Maharashtra over the last several centuries. It was Maharashtra which, for the first time, expressed the idea that age-old caste system in our country undermines social and national development; and until it is eradicated from our society, State and the country cannot progress.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj was the first to propose reservations, and implemented the idea in the princely State of Kolhapur. He made primary education compulsory in his State realizing that the State, on the whole, cannot progress until the backward, weaker sections of the society become educated. He also set up hostels, so that caste or creed does not become a bar to the education. Jotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule opened the doors of education to the women. We are proud that the coalition Government in the State is continuing the legacy of ideology and thought of these legends who offered access to development and justice to the weaker and ignored sections of the society.

In the annual budget, we have earmarked substantial funds for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled

Tribes in proportion with their population, which has accelerated the development of backward classes. Social Justice Department is implementing about 125 collective or individual welfare schemes. To promote educational development, the State is implementing schemes such as fee waiver for Backward Class students, hostel facilities, encouragement for those opting for higher and technical education, facilitating education in private institutes as well as in overseas universities, etc. The State Government has taken another ambitious decision of substantial increase in the share capital of various corporations working for the socio-economic development of the Backward Classes. This would definitely accelerate the development process of the society.

The Government made efforts to acquire the land of Indu Mill for the memorial of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. This is become possible due to positive attitude of Central Government and unity of representatives of people from the State.

The Government has also decided to publish the volumes of writings and speeches of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar to propagate his thoughts and work in the society. The Government has also decided to set up Leather Technology Institute under the aegis of Leather Industries Corporation. A hostel each would be set up for



women labourers in six divisions of the State. Study Centres would be set up in the names of Sant Rohidas and Annabhau Sathe at Dr Ambedkar University (Aurangabad) and Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj University at Nagpur, respectively. New guidance centres would be set up to help the Backward Class students who are appearing for UPSC and MPSC exams. To encourage entrepreneurs from Backward Class there would be reservation of plots from 1 guntha to 6 guntha in MIDC areas. Six special courts will be set up for cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. These are some of the significant decisions taken by the State Government recently.

For keeping young generation healthy we will be declaring de-addiction policy. This policy will help in strengthening the decision of ban on gutkha. ■

- As told to **Sanjay Deshmukh**

Aiming For Valuable Social Justice...

More than 150 students have benefitted from Overseas Scholarship for Higher Studies

Shivajirao Moghe, Minister for Social Justice spoke at length to 'Maharashtra Ahead' and answered questions about the developments he has brought about in the lives of weaker sections through the efforts of his Ministry... Here are the excerpts from the Interview:



How is the Department of Social Justice working towards the aim of development of weaker sections of the Society?

With the legacy of progressive thoughts and social reforms, Maharashtra is taking efforts for development of weaker sections of the Society. The Social Justice Department and the State Government are treading on the path of equality shown by these great personalities like Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Jotiba Phule and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The educational facilities and schemes are being implemented by the Social Justice Department, with a view to bring development in this section by providing excellent education to their children. The Scheme from the Social Justice Department is not only implemented for enhancing the educational levels but also for socio-economic development of the

weaker sections and to make them more self reliant.

Which Schemes are being implemented for educational progress of backward class children?

Education is the most important factor in the development of backward and weaker sections of the society. A Post-matric Scholarship is awarded so that the students from these sections can avail of the higher education. For encouraging girls for higher education, the girls going for Secondary Education has been provided with Savitribai Scholarship. For meritorious students we provide Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship. Apart from this, two public schools have been established for children of the Safai Karamcharis. Primary, Secondary schools and Junior College and Ashramshala have been established for Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes students. Ashramshala have also been established for Scheduled Caste students. Government hostels on large scale have also been established.

The Government has started an E-Scholarship for students undertaking Post Matriculation education. Could you explain this scheme?

The Central Government sponsors scholarship for the Backward Class students going for Post-matriculation

education. It was earlier being transferred to the concerned colleges and there were delays in actual disbursement of the Scholarship to the students. To avoid this delay, the amount of scholarship is being directly deposited in the bank account of the students through a computerized online system. The amount of scholarship is now directly being deposited in the bank account of the students. It is essential that every student must open a Bank Account. This Zero Balance account can be opened in any Nationalised Bank. The scheme has brought a unique transparency in disbursement of Scholarship amounts. Last year around 15 lakh students opened their accounts in nationalised banks and an amount of Rs. 1800 crore has been disbursed through the system. The scholarship amount of the students due for the last year has been deposited in their accounts during November-December. The Scheme has duly received an AWARD from the Information Technology Department, Government of India.

How are the Hostels providing residential accommodation facility to the students from remote and rural areas who have to leave for taukas or district place for further education? and what is the present status of these Hostels?

It is true that the students from Rural and remote regions have to go to Taluka or District places or cities. In order to provide residential accommodation to these students, the Government has constructed Student Hostels at various places. There were 271 District level hostels in the State. Additional 100 new hostels have been established. At some districts, where the land is unavailable for construction of hostels, they have been started at rental. At the same time well facilitated and with all amenities regional levels hostels having capacity of 1000 students are being constructed. These hostels have been useful in providing strength to the youth to stand out on their own.

Besides this, students are being provided with funds for Nutrition. Earlier the amount was Rs. 630/-. This has now been increased and each student is being paid Rs. 900/- with effect from 1st January 2012. Students would be benefitted through this.

What is the Scheme for Study Abroad Scholarship?

Through the Study Abroad Scholarship we ensure that promising students from Backward Classes are not deprived of higher education abroad due to the financial constraints. Under this Scheme, a student can pursue Graduate or Post Graduate level education at a University abroad. All the educational expenses for the student are provided under the Scheme. More than 150 students have been benefitted from this Study Abroad Scholarships. Earlier 25 students were able to get the benefits under the Scheme. However we have raised the number to 50 that is twice the earlier. The objective of the Scheme is that these students should progress themselves by acquiring higher education and then should serve the community and nation.

How are the students from Vocational Courses stream helped?

The reimbursement of the Tuition Fees

for students belonging to Scheduled Caste, Vimukta Jati, Nomadic Tribes and special backward classes getting admissions for Vocational Courses at Government, Government recognized Private unaided and Permanent unaided educational Institutes is made by the State Government. Maharashtra is the leading State in the Country working in this way for the educational development. Other States are studying the Schemes implemented by us. In order to implement all the welfare schemes, the State Government makes a provision in annual Budget as per the population ratio of Scheduled Caste population in the State. Maharashtra has been the first State to make such a Budget provision.

If youth from the Backward Classes intend to find employment or start on their own as self employed, how are they helped?

A total of six Corporations are working under the Social Justice Department. Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and



MHADA Colony Latur

Charmakar Development Corporation works for the development of Leather industry and to find employment for skilled workers in this field. Maharashtra State Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation works for other backward class candidates to find employment. The Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation is engaged in the welfare of people with disabilities. Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Development Corporation works for the Matang community and Vasantao Naik Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation works for betterment of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes. Through these Corporations, the concerned component is provided with a Loan for Self employment. With a view that these Corporations can work more effectively they have been provided with funds to the tune of Rs. 330 crore to increase their Share Capital. In order to make these Corporations

financially viable, loans provided by these Corporations and outstanding to the tune of Rs. 421.10 crore have been waived off with interest. In order to bring transparency in Direct Loan Disbursement the loans are distributed by a Lottery system amongst the eligible applicants. The income limit for loan eligibility has also been increased. Efforts are being made to make the youth self reliant and to enhance their economic conditions. A regular review is carried out for these Corporations and instructions are given for improvement in the work systems.

What is the status of action under the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes Atrocity Prevention Act in the State?

The action under the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes Atrocity Prevention Act in the State is being undertaken properly. Recently Members of the National Commission for Scheduled Caste held public hearings in the State. During their meetings with the

concerned senior officers they received information about the actions taken by the State in this regard. They have instructed for fast track action on the matters under this Act. At the same time they expressed their happiness for the positive implementation of projects for the welfare of Scheduled Caste. With a view to finalize the legal matters under the Act, six new Courts for these matters would soon be established one each at the Divisional level. Sanctions have been provided for creation of necessary posts at these Courts. If the matters are heard in these Courts more litigation cases will be finalized and there will be a Zero Pendency. I am confident that this will further result in prevention of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes.

What is your viewpoint on de-addiction policy announced by the State Government?

I consider that addiction is a disease prevailing in the mankind. Addiction leads to a personal loss and also affects



Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyaya Bhawan ,Sangli

the social health. The maximum loss due to addiction is inflicted on the poor and backward people. On a larger scale the first victims of addiction are women and children from the family. We have announced the de-addiction Policy in order to reduce addiction in society. With this policy, the age for drinking has been set at 25 years. There was a lot of discussion on the topic. We need public cooperation and awareness campaign to get success in de-addiction programme. We have already started for the same. The 1st Literary Meet on De-Addiction was held recently at Pune. This two day meet was the first such event in the Country. Governor of the State while addressing at the meet expect that de-addiction programme should become a peoples' movement. Lessons have been added in the school curriculum stating the visual effects of addiction.

Besides this awards have been given to persons, organizations who have been actively contributed the field of de-addiction programme. There is no age limit for the award. The award is given to a Government officer/staff, peoples' representative or a representative from the media who has worked for Addiction-free programme. We have also requested Hon. President of India and Prime Minister for an Award to be instituted in this field at the National level so that the persons in this field could be felicitated.

The de-addiction movement needs an active support from components such as non-governmental organizations, Grampanchayat and Aanganwadi.

Please provide the details of the Gharkul scheme being provided by the Social Justice Department.

Everyone should get a home. An owned home provides a different kind of satisfaction. It has been decided to provide a home to everyone who is Below Poverty Line and does not own a home. Within 2 years we have constructed 1 Lakh houses and in the near future many more

will be constructed. This first phase has been given the name as Ramai Niwas Yojana and the distribution of these houses was recently conducted at Satara by the hands of the Chief Minister.

What remedial measures have been taken so far to preserve the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar?

All the literature of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been properly preserved at a village Chincholi in Vidarbha. Funds have been provided for proper and better upkeep of the same. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Convention Centre is being established at Nagpur and has been provided with funds amounting to Rs. 22 Crores. An E-Library is being established at Deeksha Bhoomi and efforts are on for a Yatra Bhawan Tourist Centre.

What action the Government is taking while there has been a demand for Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Memorial to be created?

The Government is trying for Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Memorial to be created at Mumbai. However there are certain problems in acquiring the land for the same. The memorial will be created according to the availability of the land. A Trust from Nagpur came forward for the same. We have provided them Government land as well as funds. An auditorium at the Jijamata Garden is being constructed with full swing.

What is the plan for providing Vocational Training to the students from Backward Classes?

Backward Class students from rural areas do not come forward for competitive examinations. Vocational Training is being given to SSC passed students in 14 Districts of the State. For various competitive examinations, the students are being trained at YASHADA. The Social Justice Department provides funds to YASHADA to train the batch of 50 students each. YASHADA also helps students preparing for UPSC

examination. Out of the 50 students 20 have been successful.

Nomadic and Vimukta Jatis are always on the move from place to place. What are the plans for these people?

The population of the Vimukta and Nomadic Tribe is around 1 Crore. These communities live in small clusters. These habitats will also be provided with benefits according to Tanda habitats. The people from Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes living in tents are being provided with a permanent 269 sq. ft. house. According to a new plan they will also be provided with 5 Guntha land for Horticulture and an ancillary industry. The plan would be named as Yashwantrao Chavan Tanda Sudhar Yojana.

What is being done so that the Caste Verification process becomes easier?

The extensiveness of the work related to Caste Certificate Verification is quite huge. Everyone from students to candidates contesting elections and others seeking employment should have Caste Verification Certificate. Earlier, there were 15 Committees set up for Caste verification. In view of the Local Self Government Elections we have now established Caste Certificate Verification at 35 Districts under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors. In case of the matters where the Caste Certificate Verification is without any doubts, it has been decided to verify the Caste Certificate within a period of TWO months. Instructions have been given to provide the Certificate to eligible applicants at the earliest and within the stipulated time limits. Shortly, the Verification of Caste Certificate will be carried out ONLINE.

I personally opine that the projects and schemes being implemented by the Social Justice Department should be reviewed and evaluate some old scheme to bring changes in them besides initiating certain new schemes. ■

- As told to **Vishnu Kakde**

Endeavouring for the Socio-Economic Equality

Pre-recruitment training centres for Armed Forces have been started in the State.

Social Justice Department aims to carry Government schemes to the economically weaker and backward sections of the Society and to create an all round development for them. With a variety of schemes, these sections of the society are getting opportunities for education and employment. The Social Justice Department has contributed in a big way to the Social development of the State, says **Sachin Ahir**, Minister of State for Social Justice.

Since its inception, Maharashtra Government is implementing various schemes for the neglected constituents of the Society with an aim to bring them to the mainstream. The Social Justice Department is implementing various welfare schemes effectively. The Government is achieving success in providing justice to the neglected and ignored segments of the Society.

Considering the need of propagation of education among the lowest rungs of the ignored and

weaker communities in the society, the Government has provided a special priority for education along with the initiatives for socio-economic development of these sectors.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had given a thought “Educate and organise” to the backward and deprived classes. He always felt that this sector will not be able to join the main stream without education. The Government considered the thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar as morals and planned various educational



New Government Hostel, Sangli

schemes for these sectors. The E-Scholarship Scheme from these has been found to be extremely useful. For Backward Class students, there is a Central Government’s Post-matric Scholarship Scheme which includes examination fees and maintenance allowances apart from Tuition fees for the students. With the E-Scholarship Scheme the amount of the Scholarship will be credited directly to the Bank account of the students and the examination fees, Tuition fees and other fees will be credited to the Bank account of the concerned College. This would ensure quick payments of the Scholarship without delays. Under this Scheme an amount of Rs. 1800 crore has been credited directly to the Bank accounts of the students.



Residential School Yeola, Nashik

The students from the Backward Classes who are meritorious and have willpower but cannot pursue higher education abroad due to the poor financial conditions are now receiving education abroad under Overseas Scholarship for Higher Studies. Many talented students are getting an opportunity to study abroad.

Students from the Scheduled Caste pursuing post-matriculation education are provided with Tuition fees and Examination fees for all the recognized courses irrespective of their age or income.

The number of youth from Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists has been increasing and the number of higher educational institutes has also increased. Thus the number of Government Hostels at present is proving insufficient. Considering this an ambitious decision has been taken by the Government to construct Hostels at Divisional level with a

capacity of 1,000 students and to establish a total of 100 Hostels at the District/ Taluka level. With this the backward class students would not be deprived of admission to a hostel.

In order that the Backward Classes students could secure admission in the National Defense Academy and so that they are attracted to the Armed Forces during their student lives, we are implementing a project to provide maintenance allowance to the Scheduled Caste students from Sainik Schools. At the same time Pre-recruitment Training Centres have been started for Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists candidates to facilitate their recruitment in the Armed Forces and Police departments.

Various Financial Development Corporations are active under the Social Justice Department for the economic development of the

backward and weaker sections of the Society. These Corporations offer economic development schemes such as Seed Capital Scheme and Direct Loan Scheme. Through this initiative the economic development and empowerment of the weaker sections has been accelerated. The initiative is also helping in creating self employment for the youth.

Decision has been taken to establish Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyay Bhavan at all District places in the State. At present 19 Districts have these immaculate buildings of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyay Bhavan.

If the growth of population is considered we find that the number of Senior Citizens would be increasing. The Government is considering an all inclusive Senior Citizen Policy so that these ageing Senior Citizens could lead their life in a better way. ■

- As told to **Shantaram Sherwade**



A True Leader and Proficient Orator

Yashwantrao Chavan is an ideal example of leader and leadership

The Chief Minister of an Independent Maharashtra Yashwantrao Chavan had enthusiasm for the development of the Maharashtra. He took into confidence experts from the various fields, industrialists, social workers. In 1960 he put foundation of Agriculture and Industrial sectors of the State explains **Prof. Navneet Deshmukh.**

It can be said that Yashwantrao's birth in the land of ancient Dev-Rashtra gave him certain godly attributes. Dev-Rashtra was one of the states that emerged in Maharashtra after the Satvahan-era. Its capital was Kaundinyapur - today's Kundal. King Kuber was its ruler; a temple of Kubereshwar is still there. Kuber bestowed, quite generously, various attributes of humanity. That's why, these qualities in him were everlasting, in fact they increased.

Yashwantrao was born into an ordinary farmer family. About his family background, he says in his memoir 'Krishnakath': 'My grandfather had two sons: Ramchandra and Balwantrao. The elder son had been to school and had got some rudimentary education. So he quit farming and joined Government service as a bailiff. To subsist merely on farming was difficult, so he put in a word for his younger brother, i.e. my father, and got a bailiff's job for him too.' The family had to face all the hardships that afflict an ordinary, small farmer,

he adds.

Yashwantrao wasn't born into wealth. He was made by himself. The story of his making is a story of struggle. He got involved in the freedom struggle while at school. At 16, he went to jail for 18 months. He spent every free moment of this period reading. He read widely: Kalidas, Shakespeare, Gandhi, Carl Marx, Lenin. He read whatever he could get his hands on, voraciously. Reading changes the man in a big way, maturing his thinking and behaviour. Reading is learning, it models the man. Yashwantrao, who hailed from Dev-Rashtra / Karad reaches New Delhi, and becomes Jawaharlal Nehru's confidant. He goes on to become Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Defence Minister, Deputy Prime Minister. This is a fascinating journey. Yashwantrao never craved power. He quit as Maharashtra Chief Minister and joined the Union Cabinet as Defence Minister upon Nehru's insistence. Independent India had faced the first aggression in its history from China.

Yashwantrao said in as many words: I am not going to Delhi because the post of Defence Minister has been offered to me. The country is in trouble. I am going there to serve Mother India as its soldier. Sahyadri is offering itself in the defence of Himalayas.

When he became the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he was very much keen on development of the State. He took into confidence experts in various fields, industrialists, social workers, and even the opposition parties. He laid the foundation of agricultural and industrial development of Maharashtra in 1960. He wanted agriculture and farming to complement each other. He roped in economist Dhananjayrao Gadgil to devise a blueprint of cooperation-based rural development. He brought about financial development in the rural areas. He always consulted experts and scholars before framing new industrial policies. He came from a farmer's family, therefore he was aware of farmers' problems. New dams were being built for the development in rural areas. In some

cases a whole village would have to be shifted to make way for the dam. One such dam was being built in the vicinity of Pandhapur. Farmers were opposing it in thousands. At a rally, Yashwantrao was shown black flags. He said: 'I know that you are being displaced because of this dam. I am aware how you must be feeling, bidding adieu to the village where you have lived for generations. But please remember one thing: Because of the dam, the Lord Vitthal of Pandharpur is going to visit your farms in the form of water.'

The farmers threw away the black flags of protest and there was a resounding applause. Yashwantrao had this unique knack of winning over the opponents. He had a rich mind, there wouldn't another like him. Talking about the direction of Maharashtra's industrial policy, he said: The benefits of the schemes undertaken in earlier plans would start flowing in the third plan. The key to accelerating industrialisation is our success in development of steel-making industry, power generation and transportation infrastructure. We have created an infrastructure and production capacity. We must let it lie unused or to waste. For this, we must be able to use the people who hold expertise. Also, we must create a sense of responsibility and urgency about finishing the job in our people.

Yashwantrao Chavan had a special affection for industrial workers. He says at one place that the large-scale financial planning can not ignore the most important human factor in the industrial production i.e. worker. If we want success in our endeavors, we must do justice to the workers. The idea that workers be made stakeholders in the industry has now struck roots and it have given the workers a new inspiration and incentive to increase the production capacity.

He was of firm opinion that education was means to economic development. Speaking at a convention of Congress workers at



Mahabaleshwar on October 7, 1960, he said: "I do not look at education only as a social need. I believe that education is fundamental means to economic development. Just as agriculture can not develop as long as electricity does not reach the villages, similarly our unused manpower, which is a great resource, can not be invigorated newly unless it is electrified with education. Spread of education in Maharashtra is as important the industrial development or industrialization of agriculture. Then, the logical question that follows

is what kind of education we should impart. Education doesn't mean only opening schools and sending children there, without bothering about the curriculum. We must see if the education is enabling children to use the social resources in the state and the country. I will only touch upon this question here and move on. But I do believe that education is a transformative issue for the present-day Maharashtra.'

These remarks show that Yashwantrao's approach to the education was meaningful and



At the time of formation of Maharashtra State, Yashwantrao Chavan not only chalked out policy to help socially and economically weaker sections but also took dalits, nomadic tribes into mainstream of newly formed Maharashtra. He also lit the lamp of dreams of farmers, peasants. He formulated and implemented many policies for unified Maharashtra.

In 1951 Yashwantrao Chavan took a revolutionary decision to waive off tuition of students from economically weaker sections going for higher education. Lakhs of students received university education.

comprehensive. At an address at Aligarh University, he said: "While adult suffrage is the foundation of our system of governance, it must be accompanied by spread of education. If our new-born democracy is to strike deep roots, it is politically very important that primary education spreads. Also, it would help increase the efficiency of our mammoth manpower. If we could achieve this, it would have desirable economic consequences." Education has political, social, cultural and economic significance. The education also reflects the political rights, economic development and cultural enrichment. From this point of view, it should be apparent how the education system has gone awry. Educational institutes have mushroomed across the State. Tehsil places and even some villages have schools and colleges. Government is granting permissions to new schools liberally. But such schools and colleges lack the core which Yashwantrao had contemplated. We have forgotten the direction shown by Yashwantrao. He lived only for the society. He strove for the social uplift day and night. But

in the later years, any Tom, Dick and Harry started educational institute. EBC scholarship scheme was started by Yashwantrao. Now there are some who siphon off money from this scheme. Education has become a business. Yashwantrao wanted the school and colleges to produce patriotic citizens. He wanted them to create scientists, technicians - those who could serve the society at large. Yashwantrao knew that education is not a one-sided process. To him, education meant development of the country. It is to be accompanied by industrialisation, economic development and empowerment of the country. Yashwantrao had thought deeply about the education. A nation can not progress unless all its classes and constituents are brought together. For this, education is a great tool. B H Kalyankar writes in his book 'Sahyadriche Suputra Yashwantrao Chavan' (Yashwantrao Chavan-A Great Son of Sahyadris): 'Yashwantrao rose from a grinding poverty. In him, there was a confluence of a civilised accomplishment, fluent and natural oratory and a sensible leadership. From this sense, he was

a great 'son of Sahyadris'. He never compromised on the interests of the poor.'

Kalyankar further writes that Yashwantrao had an intrinsic relationship with the movements founded by Jotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Prince Shahu and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. No subject was off-limits for him. Sociology, politics, economy, industrialisation, foreign policy and literature: everything interested him. He thought deeply and honestly about the issues of agriculture, farmers, farm workers, industry, dalits, various communities. It led to his policies. The depth of his intelligence and vision is fascinating. Therefore he treated the artistes, writers, painters, scientists, musicians and playwrights with respect and admiration. He knew that artistes are the face of the nation. Yashwantrao was never pretentious. He never waffled. He was an honest man, an honest leader and an honest writer, always. His journey from Dev-Rashtra to Delhi reflects the concoction of all his virtues. Anyone who wants to enter the public life or the politics must make Yashwantrao his/her role model. ■

Birth Centenary Celebrations

In order to mark the birth centenary of late Yashwantrao Chavan various programmes have been organised throughout the State. A review of some selected programmes and projects...

The year 2012 marked the birth centenary of Yashwantrao Chavan, the first Chief Minister of the State, the man who is also an architect of modern Maharashtra. A grand function was organised on March 12, 2012 to celebrate Yashwantrao's birth centenary at Gateway of India plaza. President Pratibha Patil inaugurated the function, where a docudrama 'Mi Yashwantrao' (I, Yashwantrao) was staged by about 600 actors and technicians. It traced Yashwantrao's journey from birth to his becoming the Union Defence Minister.

The function was attended by the Governor K Sankaranarayanan, Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar, the late Vilasrao Deshmukh (the then Science and Technology Minister), the then Union Minister for Power Sushilkumar Shinde, the Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Union Ministers Praful Patel, Mukul Wasnik, Chairman of Legislative Council Shivajirao Deshmukh, Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Dilip Walse-Patil, among others.

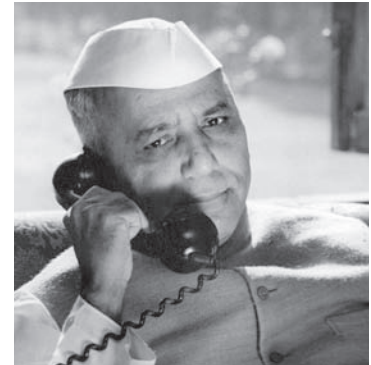
A special exhibition on Yashwantrao's life was organised at Manora MLA Hostel, Mumbai. It was inaugurated in the presence of the Governor K Sankaranarayanan, the Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Vinod Tawde, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Eknath Khadse. The exhibition highlighted main aspects of Yashwantrao's life, the landmarks in his political and social life, and his all-encompassing persona, connected

to the world of literature, arts, culture, politics and industry. A ten-minute special documentary too was screened during the function. The exhibition has been organised at the divisional level too.

A symposium on 'Maharashtra: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow' was organised at the Vidhan Bhavan on March 17 and 18, 2012. Dignitaries such as Governor K Sankaranarayanan, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, the late Vilasrao Deshmukh (the then Union Minister for Science and Technology), the then Union Minister for Power Sushilkumar Shinde, the Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

A symposium was organised on 'Yashwantrao in Maharashtra; Yashwantrao in Delhi' at the Vidhan Bhavan on May 4 and 5, 2012. It was inaugurated by the Governor. Another symposium was organised by Maharashtra branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Board on July 20, 2013. The topic was 'Right to Education'. A special issue of Lokrajya (published by Directorate General of Information and Public Relations), dedicated to Yashwantrao, was brought out.

To mark Yashwantrao's birth centenary, as well as 60th anniversary year of Maharashtra Legislature, symposiums on 'Industrial Development of Maharashtra: A retrospection and future policies' and 'Local Problems in Pune Revenue Division', respectively, were organised at Council Hall, Pune, on November 9, 2012. Experts in the respective fields spoke at the two symposiums. An exhibition of photographs on Yashwantrao's life



was held simultaneously; also a documentary on his life, directed by Shankar Vatwe, was screened at the venue.

On the occasion of Yashwantrao's birth centenary, and the international cooperation year, 27 best cooperative institutes and persons from the field were feted with awards 'Sahakar-Maharshi', 'Sahakar-Bhushan' and 'Sahakar-Nishtha' at the hands of the Chief Minister at a function in Pune on December 12, 2012.

A total of Rs 75.31 crore were sanctioned for various purposes, to mark the year: Rs 10 crore for construction of 1,200 seats auditorium by Zilla Parishad at Satara, Rs 10 crore for construction of 1200 seats auditorium at the educational complex at Karad, Rs 5 crore to build NDA block at Sainik School, Satara, Rs 2 crore for expansion and renovation of Tilak High School, Karad, Rs 8.3 crore for beautification of Yashwantrao's memorial and relaying of roads at Devrashtra in Kadegaon tehsil of Sangli district, Rs 5 crore for educational facilities at Rajaram College, Kolhapur, and Rs 11 crore for expansion and modernization of ST stand at Karad. ■

- Team Maharashtra Ahead

An Opportunity to Serve...

The welfare measures should reach the lowest rungs of the deprived and weaker sections of the society.

The Social Justice department is dedicated for overall development of the deprived sections of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. The welfare decisions for the poor and the needy has provided a new enthusiasm to the work, says Secretary, Social Justice, **R. D. Shinde**.

Maharashtra has inherited the progressive thoughts of great social reformers in Mahatma Phule, Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The State Government is carrying forward the legacy with various welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.

I have been emphasizing the need for taking the welfare measures created by the Social Justice Department for deprived constituents of the society. I have maintained that they should reach the lowest rungs of the down trodden poor, Dalit, needy people from the State. While I was the District Collector at Jalna, I implemented the Scheme for public reading of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution prepared by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and strived to take the importance to the people at the lowest rungs of the society. As Commissioner at Bhiwandi, Mira-Bhayander and Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporations, Joint Commissioner Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, District Collector Jalna, Commissioner-Diary Development, taken many meaningful decisions which would help the deprived and weaker sections of the society.

The social work lessons I received at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai are definitely proving very useful. I have tried to personally visit every District in every Division



of the State and to understand the difficulties of the deprived and weaker communities in a very short period. There is a huge difference between sitting in a Chamber at Mantralaya and carry out the paperwork and to actually visit the downtrodden people and understand their difficulties. I personally visited and evaluated the work of the Social Justice Department at Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, and Aurangabad. I met the beneficiaries and understood their expectations from the Social Justice Department. I understood the difficulties of boys and girls at the hostels by meeting them personally. Here I would elaborate an experience of visit at Nashik Girls Hostel. From my questions whether students are

getting their maintenance allowances in time?, Security at the Hostel, food quality? Availability of adequate books at the Library for Competitive Examinations, etc I could gauge the emotional aspects of the girls in the Hostel. The most striking fact was that the girls from the downtrodden and deprived communities who used to remain always within the limits of their villages and were falling prey to the old thought processes were today entering into the newer avenues of education due to the Hostels created by the Social Justice Department. They are confronting with others with a rare confidence and receiving the best education. The positive stride they are taking towards educational empowerment is definitely worthy

of pride. All this has been possible through the welfare schemes mooted by the Government.

The Social Justice Department, in the first phase is constructing 100 Government Hostels and 100 residential schools in the State. Of these the construction work of some hostels and residential schools is complete and these institutes and hostels are functioning in their own buildings. For the remaining hostels and residential schools the instructions have been issued at Mantralaya level to the Divisional Deputy Commissioners and District Offices.

E-SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship amount of students in Vocational Courses is credited to their respective bank accounts under e-scholarship scheme. From time to time Minister for Social Justice followed up with the Central Government for scholarship amount so that these students should not be deprived of education due to non availability of funds. Out of these we could provide 15 Lakh students with an scholarship amount of Rs. 1,800 crore. We organized meeting at the District levels and resolved the issues.

The Government is committed to provide justice to the neglected and deprived sections of the Society. We are making efforts to fill the backlog of handicapped in Government.

The Social Justice Department is providing financial assistance to many memorials to preserve and conserve of thoughts, places and memorials of the great personalities who dedicated their lives to the development of the Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists. In order to resolve the problem of some of such memorials immediately, files delayed at the Mantralaya level have been decided. Administrative sanctions have been provided. For this certain places and the work for certain Memorials was physically evaluated on the spot. Meetings were held with social workers and officers of the Public Works

Department. The prominent and extremely well furnished Muktibhoomi at Yeola was visited for on the spot evaluation. The funds were made available so that the work at Muktibhoomi should not get delayed. Today 70% of the construction work is complete. We are ensuring that the protection and preservation of other places and memorials would not have any obstacles at the Government level.

Social Justice Department carries out its tasks on the basis of everlasting values and thoughts of equality. Every person who approaches us is facing some kind of financial problem. Hence we try to understand the difficulties of such persons reaching Mantralaya. We provide enough time for them. The entire satisfaction of the administrative service culminates in the fact that we have been useful to someone. Due to the Red-tape and the indifferent attitude a common beneficiary thinks again and again before climbing the stairs or entering Mantralaya or a Government office. I strive at my level so that no beneficiary should experience an indifferent attitude and should not get disheartened about the Government.

While the recruitment at all the Government Departments have been banned, the recruitment for certain posts such as Warden, Junior clerk, Teacher or Librarian required for the Hostels and the Residential schools was carried out with a special permission from the Chief Minister. This recruitment which was carried out on an utmost essential need the Department implemented the recruitment process with total transparency.

PROPER MANPOWER MANAGEMENT

I have always emphasized on creating an architectural depiction for the Department. We reviewed the vacant positions at the Department. We have taken up the matter with Maharashtra Public Service Commission for recruitment to the essential vacant



Beneficiaries under the loan scheme of Vasantroa Naik Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation

posts. The precise implementation of the schemes is only possible with the strengthening and empowerment of the administration. With this in view we have emphasized training of officers from our Department with the cooperation of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Training and Research Institute, Pune, and Yashwantrao Chavan Development Authority (YASHADA). We have also stressed the need for officers to acquire detailed information about the Right to Information Act. We are emphasizing on the strengthening the administration and proper management of the manpower through all our efforts.

The Social Justice Department is committed to provide special attention to the weaker sections of the Society and empower them through education, poverty eradication, health and vocation so that the gap between them due to many reasons could be reduced effectively. The Social Justice Department is working to bring these constituents to the mainstream of the Society. I consider it to be a great merit of my past life that I have become a soldier in this social service establishment. ■

The Power of Social Justice

There are 117 Schemes being implemented under the Social Justice Department for individual and collective benefits.

The objective of Social Justice has been included in the Preamble as well as fundamental rights and guiding principles. The sentiment that the new society should be based on social, economic and physical justice got imbibed in the Indian population with the freedom struggle, says Commissioner, Social Welfare, **R.K. Gaikwad**.



Maharashtra has provided the Nation with great social reformers and welfare rulers like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj these provided an auspicious beginning with Reservation to counteract the system of unequal status and unequal opportunity. Bharatratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar became the Father of Social Reservation Policy by making provision of reservation under the Constitution. The implementation of the Social Justice started in India under Para 46 of the Indian Constitution.

The objective of Social Justice has been included in the Preamble as well as fundamental rights and guiding principles. The sentiment that the new society should be based on social, economic and physical justice got imbibed in the Indian population with

the freedom struggle. The principles and policies such as there should be a justified distribution of property, production resources should not be limited to a few persons, everyone should receive equal wages, the interests of the women and children should be protected and there should be an opportunity for the weaker sections to come up are included in the Constitution. Reduction of the social and economic disparity has been the main incentive behind the same.

While understanding the strides taken by the Nation and the State, the background of the same, the developments and finally the initiation of Social Justice, it is essential to appreciate history of the same. According to Government Resolution by the Government of Bombay No. 4370, dated the 5th November 1928, Start Committee was established to

delve in collection of educational, economic and social information about the Backward Class and to suggest remedial measures for raising the living standards of these people. The Committee had 10 members. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a member of this committee and an officer Mr. O. H. B. Start was the Chairman. The Committee submitted its Report in 1930. After this in 1932 the Backward Class Welfare Department was established at Mumbai. Mr. O. H. B. Start was the first Director of this Department (15.10.1932 to 17.04.1934).

In 1947 the office of the Director, Backward Class Welfare Department was shifted to Pune. The cornerstone of the Directorate building was laid by the then Industries, Fisheries and Backward Class Welfare Minister Ganapati Devji Tapase on the 9th August 1947. On the 23rd September 1957 the offices of the Chief Inspector, Recognized Schools and Director, Backward Class Welfare were created. At this time Social Welfare and Education Departments were together at the Secretariat level and there were two wings that were active at the level of Director, Social Welfare.

BACKWARD CLASS WELFARE
This wing from the Directorate looked after the implementation of various educational and economic development schemes for the persons from following three communities.

- a. Scheduled Caste
- b. Scheduled Tribes or Adivasi
- c. Economically and educationally backward (Castes from Government Resolution dated 18.05.1959)

CORRECTION WING (ADMINISTRATION REFORMS)

Through this wing in the Secretariat the work connected with Women Welfare, Child Welfare, Handicapped Welfare, Beggars' Home, Remand Homes and Government Recognized schools was undertaken.

The District level system of the Social Welfare Department got organized after the creation of Maharashtra State on the 1st May 1960. The status of the District level Social Welfare Officer at that time was equivalent to the Class II Mamledar. Divisional Social Welfare Officers were active at Pune, Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur. Under the Special Component Scheme the posts of Divisional Social welfare Officers were created in 1982-83 for two divisions at Nashik and Amravati. At the same time Class I Posts of District Social Welfare Officers were created. From 15th October 1932 to 30th November 2008, a total of 87 ICS/IAS Officers have held the post of Director, Social Welfare.

TRANSITIONS

- 1932:** Establishment of the Backward Class Welfare Department.
- 1957:** Establishment of Social Welfare Department at Pune on the 23rd September 1957.
- 1982:** Tribal Welfare Department separated from Social Welfare Department.
- 1991:** Women and Child Welfare Departments separated from Social Welfare Department.
- 1999:** Handicapped Welfare Department separated from Social Welfare Department.
- 2000:** Vimukta Jati, Nomadic Tribes and Other Backward Class and Special Backward Class Welfare separated from Social Welfare Department.
- 2001:** Since 2001 this Department is functioning as Social Justice and Special Assistance Department.

At the present moment, Secretary, Social Justice and Special Assistance Department is at the helm of administrative system of the Social Justice Department. Under the control of the Commissioner, Social Welfare, Pune there are 7 Divisional Deputy Commissioners, Social Welfare Department at Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur alongwith 35 Assistant Commissioners and 34 District Social Welfare Officers (Zilla Parishad).

There are 117 Schemes being implemented under the Social Justice Department for individual and collective benefits. 271 Hostels for the backward classes are working. A decision has been taken in 2007 to establish a total of 7 Hostels, one each at the Divisional level with a capacity of 1,000. Accordingly these Hostels are now active. In order that the backward class students would not be deprived of admission to the Hostels due to lack of capacity and that they would be able to complete their higher education, 100 Government Hostels each with a capacity of 100 have been started. A total of 2,388 Hostels are working under Grants from the Social Justice Department. In accordance with a decision taken on the 26th July 2011 the Government has enhanced the facilities and amenities at the Government Hostels for boys and girls. Accordingly the students are being provided with 32 types of facilities/amenities.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

For children of the Safai Karmachari, there are 2 residential schools one each at Pune and Nagpur. 16 Primary and Secondary Ashramshala are working for Scheduled Caste and are run by voluntary organizations. A total of 973 Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes Ashramshalas on Grant Basis are running in the State. Under this, there are 2 Ashramshalas for the children of Sugarcane workers and 1 is Vidyaniketan Ashramshala. There are 52 Social Work Colleges providing training for Social Work

under this Department. A decision has been taken to start 353 Government Residential Schools one at each Taluka.

During the 1st Phase out of the proposed 100 residential schools 60 residential schools have been started. The residential schools would admit boys and girls from Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists communities between 5th and 7th standards. These residential schools will provide essential educational facilities alongwith lodging and boarding. Due to the huge quantum of basic educational facilities made available by the Social Justice Department the students from the Backward Class have been immensely facilitated for education.

SAMAJIK NYAYA BHAWAN

With a view to provide all the development facilities for the Backward Class community under a single roof, the impressive multi storied and fully facilitated buildings of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyaya Bhawan are under construction in 34 Districts of the State. More than half of these are now functional. This has brought all the Government offices and the Corporation offices implementing various Schemes for welfare of the Backward Classes. Maharashtra which has been a pioneer in ushering equality and Social Justice in the Country has created a new landmark through the establishment of these Bhawans.

ASSISTANCE FOR MEMORIALS

With a view to preserve and proliferate the thoughts and places of great personalities who dedicated their lives to the prosperity of Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists, the Social Justice Department is providing financial assistance to many memorials. Chaityabhoomi for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, National Memorial, (Mahad, Dist. Raigad) and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial at Ambavade, in Ratnagiri district, The Satyagraha Memorial



at Yeola, Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Memorial, Ghatkopar (Mumbai) and Nagpur, Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Memorial at Mukhed Dist. Nashik, Mahar Battalion Valor Memorial at Bheema Koregaon are some of them. With a view to proliferate the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the administrative sanction has been obtained for an expenditure of Rs. 22 Crores for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Convention Centre at Nagpur. The social Justice Department is carrying out the work of preservation and proliferation of these and other memorials. Some of these Memorials are in the final stages of completion. Others have been completed and opened for disciples.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Under the Government of India Post Matric Scholarship with tuition and examination fees for vocational education for the Backward Class students, the scholarship amounts for the students are credited directly to their bank accounts since 2011.

The Scheme has been well known as E-Scholarship. This E-Scholarship scheme has proved revolutionary and has prevented attempts to usurp Scholarship twice and saved the exchequer of lakhs of rupees. This

has further resulted in transparency, accuracy and acceleration in distribution of the scholarship amounts. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship has been made ONLINE since 2012.

SWABHIMAN SCHEME

Changes have been made under Dadasaheb Gaikwad Sabalikiran va Swabhiman Scheme considering the demands of the Backward Class constituents. Earlier the beneficiaries were provided with power tillers. Now they would be provided with Mini-tractors and suitable implements. Under Dadasaheb Gaikwad empowerment Scheme 4,782 thousand landless farmers have been provided with lands. The persons and organizations working for the welfare of Backward Class were earlier felicitated with DALIT MITRA Awards. The name of the Award has been changed and now the same will now be known as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajbhushan Award.

The Nutrition allowance for the Backward Class and handicapped students has been increased from Rs. 630/- to Rs. 900/-. The extent of funds released under the Dalit Vasti Improvement Scheme has been increased in proportion to the population. A decision has been taken

to purchase private lands at twice the Government Ready Reckoner rates and at a maximum of Rs. 3 Lakhs per acre and to distribute the same to the beneficiaries under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Sabalikiran va Swabhiman Yojana.

RAMAI GHARKUL SCHEME

An independent Gharkul Scheme is being implemented for the Scheduled Castes. The Scheme was inaugurated at Arni in Yavatmal District in 2010. The Scheme has been known as Ramai Awas Yojana. Under the Scheme the construction of approximately 1,28,000 houses has been completed.

A decision has been taken to start Industrial Training Institutes for the boys and girls from Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists communities at Divisional level. The construction of the Training Institutes at Nashik, Amravati, Nagpur Aurangabad and Latur has been completed.

50 students from the Backward Class are being trained at the Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration, Pune for various National and State level Competitive examinations. The Backward Class students are provided training for IIT entrance examination at the IIT-ians PACE Institute, Mumbai.

WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Various programmes are being undertaken for welfare of disabled persons. The educational institutes started for them are provided with 100 % Grant. Loans have been made available for self employment under the Handicapped Finance and Economic Development Corporation. The income limit for loans is Rs. 1 Lakh. The loan limit has been increased from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 1,50,000/- and includes a subsidy of 30%. There are 15% of the seats at the Hostels of Social Justice Department are reserved for the Minister for Social Justice. A policy decision has been taken by Minister for Social Justice, Shivajirao Moghe to reserve 5% of these seats for the physically disabled.

Ultra modern hostel facilities have been made available to the physically disabled students. The Government is committed to provide Justice to the neglected and deprived sections of the Society. The Government is making efforts to fill up the backlog of the persons with disabilities recruitment in the State. total 10,000 such persons were already recruited.

More and more youth are provided with Loans for self employment by various Corporations working under the Social Justice Department. Funds to the extent of Rs. 330 crore have been released to these corporations to enhance their share capital. In order to bring transparency in the loan distribution, Lottery system is being implemented. A revolutionary decision to waive off loans of Rs. 421.17 crore with interests has been taken.

ONLINE CASTE VERIFICATION

A pilot project for ONLINE Caste Verification for the State is being implemented through the Pune based Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI). A website has been developed for the same. The process for ONLINE Caste Verification has been initiated from Mumbai and Pune.

DE-ADDICTION LITERARY MEET

Organizing the First ever De-addiction Literary Meet in the Country, the Social Justice Department has taken the first step to create an addiction free Society. The Government has proved its progressive attitude by declaring the de-addiction policy in the year 2011 with a view to prevent the youth from getting addicted, that a strengthened youth should evolve and the family health should prevail.

E-GOVERNANCE

In order to provide strength to the E-Governance project of the State the Social Justice Department has started with the concept of paperless office. The correspondence from the Divisional offices to the District offices was made compulsory through E-mail. Every office was provided with an E-mail ID. Every office has been provided with fully equipped computers with internet connectivity.

The Social Justice Department is going to be a couple of steps ahead of other Departments on the Information Technology front. All the benefits under the individual benefit schemes will be provided through a Bank. The schemes would be connected to the AADHAR CARD and thus will shut down bogus beneficiaries from taking advantages.

INDEPENDENT COURTS

With a view to give justice in cases registered under the Scheduled Caste/Tribes Atrocities Prevention Act, a total of SIX independent Courts would be established at Revenue Divisional level. A policy decision would be taken in future with a view to provide Loan freedom for housing schemes for Backward Classes with financial crisis.

FUTURE POLICY

1. Individual Empowerment: Emphasis will be laid on the individual empowerment of every beneficiary in the social sector in terms of education, economic,

social and thought process/ mental development.

2. Empowerment of Women from Scheduled Caste: This Department will play a frontal role in implementing Social initiatives for women development.

3. To make the Youth more self reliant: The Schemes that supported the Backward Class youth to go in for industries, business or employment are lying inoperative. These schemes will be revised and emphasis will be laid on schemes for economic self reliance.

4. Greater participation of the Youth in administration: With a view that youth from the Backward Class get an opportunity in working at authoritative posts in the Central and State Governments, the training programmes organized for them would not be limited to temporary 2 months duration but will continue till they get recruited in the administration.

5. Social Audit: Social Audit of various Schemes of the Social Justice Department will be carried out.

6. Micro Planning: A survey will be conducted of the beneficiaries of the Schemes of the Social Justice Department and the effect of these schemes on their Social status will be evaluated. According to these necessary changes would be made in the schemes being implemented at present.

7. Competent and strong Administration: Administration implements the decisions of the Government. It is essential that the implementation should be effective, transparent and accelerated. As the Social justice Department is connected with 52 % of the population from the society, the administrative system also needs to be sentimental. With this in view time bound training camps would be organized for making the administration effective, transparent, accelerated and sentimental as also technically competent. ■

Assuring the Dignified Life for All

So far 12763 Gatai craftsmen have been provided with free stalls

Bringing the downtrodden within the mainstream is the main goal of the Social Justice Department for which many schemes have been successfully implemented. Sant Rohidas Leather Industries Development Corporation is working with the sole aim of socio-economic development of the Charmakar community in the State.

Maharashtra Leather Industries Development Corporation was established on the 1st May 1974 with the aim of development of the Charmakar community. Various schemes are being implemented by the State Government for educational, financial and social development of Charmakar communities such as Dhor, Holar and Mochi coming under the Scheduled Castes and economically weaker section and those living Below Poverty Line in order to enhance their standard of living and to provide dignified life to them.

The sanctioned authorized share

capital of the Corporation when it was established was Rs. 5 Crores. At present the authorized share capital of the Corporation has been increased to Rs. 73.21 Crores.

Sant Rohidas Maharaj has been one of the greatest saints from the Charmakar community. Therefore the Government has renamed the Corporation as "Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation" in 2002. The Corporation has four production centres namely at Amravati, Hingoli Kolhapur and Satara in the State and the leather products are supplied to Government departments.

A. Development Schemes implemented by the Corporation

1. 50% Subsidy Scheme
2. Margin Money Scheme
3. Training Scheme

B. Schemes from the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation NSFDC, New Delhi

1. Term Loan Scheme
2. Micro Credit Supply Scheme
3. Women Empowerment Scheme
4. Women Farmers Scheme
5. Educational Loan Scheme

Essential Criterion for Schemes

1. The applicant should belong to Charmakar Community of the Scheduled Caste.
2. The applicant should be a resident of Maharashtra State.
3. The age of applicant should be between 18 to 55 years.
4. The annual income of the applicant's family for the State Government Scheme should be Rs One lakh in rural and urban areas and for NSFDC schemes Rs 81,000 and Rs. 1,03,000 for urban areas.
5. The Caste and Income Certificate should have been granted by Tehsildar or equivalent competent authority.



GATAI STALL THAT GIVES NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Anjanabai Narayan Shinde of Taj Nagar, Nagpur used to carry out her ancestral business of repairing shoes and chappals on the side of a road. It became impossible for the widowed Anjanabai to bear the economic burden of being the sole bread winner of her family. She heard about the Gatai stall scheme of Sant Rohidas Leather Industry and Charmakar Development Corporation. She applied for the stall and thanks to the Social Welfare Department and Sant Rohidas Leather Development Corporation; due to their courtesy she received a tin stall on the 30th September 2012. The stall gave her new lease of life. Now she does not have to toil in harsh sun. She also started producing various leather items .Which helped in increasing her income. Due to the excellent scheme from the corporation and with the guidance received from the staff Anjanabai has become self reliant and leading her life very happily.



6. The applicant should not have this Corporation or any other Government Undertaking.

C. Gatai Stall Scheme

The Corporation implements a Scheme for Gatai craftsmen working under the sun and rains at roadside and provides them with Tin roof stalls

under the Scheme. The Scheme is implemented jointly on a 100% Grant basis through Social Welfare, Pune and LIDCOM.

Through the Corporation we have so far distributed Loans to a total of

provided every year to Charmakars for self employment through various training institutes and in various disciplines. Computerization for converting all the process for the Corporation ONLINE is progressing.

CRAFTSMAN WHO MANUFACTURES WORLD FAMOUS KOLHAPURI CHAPPAL...

World famous Kolhapuri chappals are being manufactured since 18th century ,traditionally by the craftsman of Kolhapur and their adjoining villages. One of these craftsmen was Dattatrey Maruti Powar from village Kale of Panhala taluka of Kolhapur district who used to manufacture Kolhapuri chappals in his ancestral cottage industry. He is very skilled craftsman and there is great demand for the Kolhapuri chappals manufactured by him but that did not provide enough to run his household.

With the most valuable financial assistance of loan of Rs one lakh from the Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation, he could expand his traditional business. He also received scientific training for making chappals. This increased his daily earning from Rs 250 to Rs 1000. Now all the family member of the Dattatrey Powar joined him in the business and all of them also received scientific training under the training programmes run by Corporation.



Craftsmen started their own manufacturing of Kolhapuri Chappals

have been established at all the Districts. After the Corporation started working under the aegis of Social Welfare Department in 2002, Sant Rohidas Leather Industry and Charmakar Development Corporation has created a special identity. The Corporation is striving so that

and grant schemes.

Important decisions taken by the Corporation

1. Educational Loan Scheme has been implemented.
2. Income Limit has been increased.
3. Outstanding Loans as on 31.03.2008 have been waived.
4. The condition of obtaining guarantor has been relaxed.
5. The targets set by the Government during the last three years have been achieved.

Bridging the Economic Gap

Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation provides financial support for self employment of the Scheduled Castes.

The Corporation is looking forward to becoming an inclusive development system instead of just being a loan sanctioning entity. With this in view the Corporation is looking forward to make available a market for the products manufactured by the beneficiaries, provide essential guidance about the markets and organizing Camps and Conferences for the same.

Indian society is much divided socially and economically. In order to bridge the gap, various measures have been taken by the State and Central Governments. For overall development of the economically weaker sections of Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhists as well as Safai Karamcharis The Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Limited was established on the 10th July 1978 as a Government of Maharashtra Undertaking with the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department under the Companies Act 1956. The Corporation aims to bring these weaker sections into the mainstream of the Society. The authorized Share



capital of the Corporation at present is Rs. 500 Crores. The contribution of the State and Central Government in this share capital is in the Ratio of 51:49.

This Corporation has an independent Board of Directors. The Chairman of the Board is a peoples' representative appointed in the category of Minister of State. Along with him some non-government members from various fields are appointed by the Government for a specified period. Other Government and semi-government officers are ex-officio members. In order to carry out day to day activities of the Corporation effectively a senior officer of the IAS Cadre with extensive administrative experience is appointed as the Managing Director of the Corporation. In order to effectively implement the

Schemes of the Corporation there are Regional offices on Division level and District offices at District levels.

The Corporation implements the Self employment schemes to economically empower the members of the Scheduled Caste communities who are below poverty line. Under this 50% Grant has been given for starting small businesses, besides financial support from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 50,000 has been given under the Micro-Credit Finance Scheme at very small interest rates. For Medium Scale industries there is a provision for Seed Capital Scheme, Term Loan Scheme as well as Bridge Loan Scheme. Under this a financial support from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 Lakhs is made available. At the same time for establishment of large businesses a loan upto Rs. 30 Lakhs is made available under the High Cost

NSFDC'S HELPING HAND

The Term Loan Scheme by National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation has provided helping hand to Madan Rajaram Borkar from Jalgaon. Around 3 years back Madan Rajaram Borkar an educated unemployed was exploring for setting up his own business. After he received the information about the Term Loan scheme being implemented by National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation, he submitted his loan application to the District office Jalgaon for Gas Agency. Accordingly under the NSFDC Scheme he was sanctioned a loan of Rs. 2,50,000/-. Within this the Term Loan from NSFDC was Rs. 1,87,000/- seed Capital from the Corporation of Rs. 40,000, a Grant of Rs. 10,000/- and contribution of the applicant to the tune of Rs. 13,000/-. At present his Gas Agency business has flourished and he has a staff component of 18 men and 2 women.

Project Scheme.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In order to empower women from weaker sections and to make them self reliant the Corporation has implemented certain special schemes for rehabilitation of widows, deserted and Devdasi women. At present “Mahila Samridhi Yojana” and “Mahila Kisan Yojana” are being specially implemented for women.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The financial support alone is not enough for self employment. It is also essential to possess relevant knowledge of the business and technical skills. With this in view the Corporation also provides this Vocational training.

SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

As the economical conditions of the students from Dalit and weaker sections are pathetic, a loan of up to Rs. 20 Lakhs is being made available at minimal interest rates through the Corporation.



National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation. These National Corporations also make available financial support in terms of loans at minimal interest rates for eligible Below Poverty Line candidates from Scheduled Caste and Safai Karamchari communities for self employment/training and higher education. The Corporation is successfully carrying out this responsibility as well.

Under the various Self Employment Schemes of the Corporation a total of

68 students as financial support for higher studies.

Taking advantage of various Schemes of the Corporation a number of people today have become businessmen and many “Employees” have today become “Owners”. However due to their entry in the field as a newcomer and due to lack of experience many of the beneficiaries who had entered the field with vigour came across continued losses instead of profits and finally they had to close their establishments and went bankrupt. In order to provide these people with a renewed chance the Government has taken a historic decision to waive their loans outstanding as on 31st March 2008.

As the beneficiaries who have availed the loans have not repaid the same, the Banks and the Central Corporations are refusing loans to the new beneficiaries. Hence the Corporation is appealing to all the beneficiaries from time to time to repay the loans regularly. It is essential for the beneficiaries to respond positively to this appeal and consciously understand their duties towards the community. The timely repayment of loans will bring in the change in the policy of Central Corporations and the Banks in sanctioning the loans to new applicants and the beneficiaries should keep in mind that their own community would benefit from such action.

The Corporation is looking forward to becoming an inclusive development system instead of just being a loan sanctioning entity. With this in view the Corporation is looking forward to make available a market for the products manufactured by the beneficiaries, provide essential guidance about the markets and organizing Camps and Conferences for the same.

Action is being taken at the Corporation to use modern technology in order to connect all the District and Regional offices to the Headquarters through a website and to make the total work process online. ■

DREAM COMES TRUE

Bibhishan Maroti Dhale, a resident of Mannathpur village in Latur District was working as a labour since the year 2004. He had a dream to own a business. Therefore he applied for a loan for a cycle shop under the SEED CAPITAL Scheme to the Latur District Office of the MAHATMA PHULE BACKWARD CLASS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED. The seed capital scheme is implemented in cooperation with a Bank. Under the Scheme the 100 % Loan amount is shared as loan from the Bank 75%, Seed capital from the Corporation to the extent of 20% including Rs. 10,000/- as Grant and the contribution of the beneficiary as 5%. Accordingly he was sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- under the Seed Capital Scheme.

Dhale was sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- by the State Bank of Hyderabad, Nilanga Branch. In this the Corporation shared Rs. 10,000/- as Grant and Rs. 10,000/- as Seed Capital. His own contribution was Rs. 5,000/- and the Bank provided him Rs. 75,000/- . With this amount Shri. Dhale started his own business.

If we see his business today it is found that he has repaid the total loan from the Bank as well as from the Corporation and the business is going strong. At present he has 7-8 employees working with him. Apart from cycle repairing he is now dealing in various cycle parts on a wholesale basis. He feels that his financial status has improved to a great extent.

Apart from the above State Government Schemes, the Corporation also acts as a Channelized System for the Government of India Corporations such as National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation and the

9,03,949 beneficiaries were provided with loans totaling Rs. 41733.26 lakhs. Under the Training scheme an amount of Rs. 3056.68 Lakhs has been spent in the form of Grants for 84124 persons. An amount of Rs. 51.21 lakhs is being made available to

Prospects for Sustainable Development

The Annual Income Limit for receiving benefits from the Corporation has been raised upto one lakh for rural and urban areas.

The Lokshahir Anna Bhau sathe Development Corporation through its various loan schemes helped in shaping the life of many. Here is the details of the schemes through which loans are made available to the needy. The corporation not only just provide financial assistance but also give an opportunity to the people to override on the poverty and meagerness.

The main objective of the Corporation is to provide financial assistance to the 12 sub-castes of Matang Community through various schemes for their economic, educational and social development. The work of the Corporation includes giving Self employment through the financial provision for various businesses and for their social and economical upliftment. The authorized Share capital of the Corporation is has Rs. 75 crore .

SCHEMES OF THE CORPORATION ARE AS FOLLOWS

• Special Financial Assistance Scheme by Central Government :

The funds for this Scheme are provided by the State Government to the Corporation. Under this Scheme an amount of Rs. 118.72 crore has been disbursed as Grant to a total of 1,64,780 beneficiaries. (Under this scheme an amount of either 50% of the Loan amount or Rs. 10,000/- whichever is less is disbursed as a grant).

• Seed Capital Scheme

The Seed Capital Scheme is implemented from the Share capital Funds made available by the State

Government. Under this Scheme the Corporation has provided Loan benefits amounting to Rs. 33.96 Crores to 11,551 beneficiaries.

• Schemes of National Backward Class Finance & Development Corporation:

For availing benefits under this Scheme the essential Annual income limit for rural areas is Rs. 81,000/- and for urban areas Rs. 1,03,000/-.

1. Term Loan
2. Micro Credit Finance Scheme
3. Mahila Samruddhi Yojana (MSY)
4. Mahila Kisan Yojana
5. Education Loan Scheme
6. Personal Loan Scheme

Funds for the above Schemes are received from the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation, Delhi. The Corporation has made available the benefits amounting to Rs. 71.50 crore to 12,445 beneficiaries under this Scheme.

Eligibility of the applicants for benefits under various schemes:

1. The applicant should be a resident of Maharashtra State.
3. The applicant should have received knowledge and experience/training for the business chosen by him.
4. The applicant should not have

received benefits from any other Government Schemes or from those of the Corporation.

5. The terms and conditions placed by the Corporation from time to time would be binding on the applicant.

In order to provide higher education benefits to the children from Matang Community the Corporation has implemented the Educational loan scheme and provided loans to the needy and aspirant students to help them in achieving their educational goals and fulfilling the objectives of the Corporation. With a view to provide a market to the products from beneficiaries, the Corporation is striving for them with stalls for sale and publicity of their products at various National level fairs. The Corporation is making efforts to bring in modernization in their Schemes in order to survive in the modern day competition.

ACHIEVING THE SELF-RELIANCE

Vitthal Gunaji Ukande from Bandra, Mumbai used to sell fruits door-to-door. However, he was not getting enough to make the ends meet even after toiling for the whole day. That day changed his life when he received

information about the business loan through Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Development Corporation. He went to the Corporation's district office and filled up the loan application. As he received a loan from the Corporation he purchased a trolley and started fruit stall. His business is now going on very well.

DRIVER BECOMES OWNER

Rajendra Bobate from Aarey Colony, Goregaon dreamt of owning a car for his business. But he was unable to

buy the vehicle due to poor financial condition. He had to work as a driver for a rental vehicle owned by someone else. One day his dream came true when he applied for the loan provided by the Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Development Corporation. The Corporation provided a very good response and helped him in getting the loan from the bank at the earliest. Thus he could become an Owner of an Indica car. This improved his financial income and also social status.

VADA-PAV STALL CHANGED THE LIFE

Kavita Vitthal Umap resident of Vikhroli, Mumbai was a housewife. She received the information about the loan schemes of the Corporation. She applied for the loan under Seed Capital Loan Scheme to start a business of selling Vada-Pav. The Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe Development Corporation has played a valuable role in availing the loan to Kavita. Today she earns enough to live a decent life with the help of her vada -pav stall. ■

For the Upliftment of Marginalised

The Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation provides loan for education to the girls from marginal income group.

The Maharashtra State Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation was established on April 23, 1999. The objective of the corporation funds for implementation of various schemes for the welfare of other Backward Classes. The Corporation is to make funds available also tries to give impetus to self-employment and elevate their living standard and to give market to their produce. The present share capital of the corporation is Rs.250 crore.

To avail the benefit of the scheme annual income limit for rural areas is Rs.81,000 and for Urban areas it is Rs.1,03,000.

SCHEMES OF THE CORPORATION

20 Per Cent Seed Money

Under the scheme the funds are provided by the State Government. Total 8644 beneficiaries have been provided loan of Rs.19.8 crore through nationalised banks.

SCHEMES OF NATIONAL CORPORATION

The schemes are: Micro Finance,

Mahila Samruddhi, Swarnima, Term loan, 45% Margin Money, Education Loan.

For the above schemes, funds are made available through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi. So far, 18,986 beneficiaries have availed the benefit of Rs.121.55 crore in the form of loan. Address: 4th Floor, Administrative Building, Ramkrishna Chemburkar Marg, Chembur, Mumbai-44 071, Telephone no. 022-2529 9685 and 2527 5374.

CRITERIA FOR A BENEFICIARY

- Beneficiaries should belong to Other Backward Class and should be a domicile of Maharashtra State.
- Age should be between 18 and 50 years.
- Should not be a defaulter of any of the banks, Corporations or any financial organistaion.
- Only one person per family can take the benefit of the loan facility.

Earlier the Corporation gives impetus to self-employment in the rural areas, to provide opportunities of self-employment to women and to empower them, under the

policy of minorities, providing self-employment opportunities to minorities and their economic development and provides loan for the girls belonging to marginal income group of Other Backward Classes so that they should not be deprived of education.

The beneficiaries who are provided with the loan, they are provided with skill based training and market to their produce. National, State and District level workshops and exhibitions are also organized by the Corporation.

For the welfare of Other Backward Classes and considering the increasing urban population of the Maharashtra, scarce employment opportunities in the rural areas, meager income from agriculture and due to which migration of these Backward Classes to cities, the Corporation will endeavour for the next five years to empower the marginal income groups from the Other Backward Classes.

Proposed Schemes of the National Corporation Saksham Yojana, Shilp Sampada, Krishi Sampada. ■

- Sharad B. Londhe

Roaming Takes a Back Seat...

Under the Schemes of the NBCFDC loans have been distributed to 17244 beneficiaries

Vasantrao Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation has been established for the overall economic, social and educational development of communities spending almost all of their life beyond the normal habitat lifestyles and roaming all over with their family and belongings on their backs.

The Government has created Vasantrao Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation on the 8th February 1984 for the overall economic, social and educational development of communities spending almost all of their life beyond the normal habitat lifestyles and roaming all over with their family and belongings on their backs.

The Government has sanctioned an authorized Share Capital of Rs. 200 Crore for the Corporation and has made available a Share capital of Rs. 161.29 Crore for the development of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes.

By making available a financial support at a nominal interest rate of 4% with a view for economic development and stability of Vimukta Jati, Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Class, the aim has been to

make available the seed capital for business.

The following Schemes are being implemented for the overall development of Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes.

Seed Capital Loan Scheme:

Under this Scheme 25% of the project limit of Rs. 5 Lakhs is provided as Seed Capital, 25% is provided by the Corporation at a nominal interest rate of 4% and 75% of the amount is provided by a Nationalised Bank. The Corporation Loan is recovered in 60 installments along with the Bank. Under this Scheme the loan is made available for various businesses such as Grocery Shop, Cloth Shop, Milk Business, Sheep and Goat farming, Doctor, Advocate, Agriculture Business, Truck, Tempo, Taxi, Rickshaw and others.

Direct Loan Scheme:

Under

this Scheme the Corporation provides a loan of Rs. 25,000/- for small businesses. The period of recovery is 3 years and the annual interest is charged at 2%.

CRITERION

A beneficiary has to be a resident of Maharashtra State. He should have a Caste Certificate from a competent authority that he belongs to Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes and his annual income should be up to Rs. 1 Lakh. Preference will be given if the candidate has undergone any technical education or training. Such Certificate should be attached. There should be a proof of ownership or contract for the place where the business is to be carried out. A Ration Card should be available. For Tempo, Rickshaw and Taxi, there should be an R. T. O. License and Driving License. There should be one Guarantor, 7/12 extract and one empowered Guarantor. The applicant should be between 18 and 45 years of age.

Schemes of the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi.

Vasantrao Naik Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation has been appointed as the Authorized Channel for the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi since 1994.

The Schemes of the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi are being implemented through



the Vasantrya Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation. These Schemes are as follows:

1. **Term Loan Scheme:** The Project Cost Limit for this Scheme is Rs. 10 Lakhs. The contribution of the National Corporation is 85 %, our Corporation is 10 % and that of the beneficiary is 5 %. The loan is made available at 6% interest.
2. **Margin Money Loan Scheme:** The Project Cost Limit for this Scheme is Rs. 10 Lakhs. The contribution of the National Corporation is 40 %, the contribution of the bank is 50 %, contribution from our Corporation is 5 % and that of the beneficiary is 5 %. The loan is made available at 6 % interest.
3. **Educational loan Scheme:** The project cost limit for this Scheme is Rs. 5 Lakhs and the same is available as a loan at Rs. 1.25 Lakhs every year. Under this Scheme Loan is also made available for Higher Education and Medical Education as well. The contribution of the National Corporation is 90 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 % and that of the beneficiary is 5 %. The loan is made available at 4 % interest.
4. **Saksham Loan Scheme:** The Project Cost Limit for this Scheme is Rs. 10 Lakhs. The contribution of the National Corporation is 85 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 %. The loan is made available at 6 % rate of interest up to Rs. 5 Lakhs and at 8 % for loan amounts above Rs. 5 Lakhs. The term for this loan is 5 years.
5. **Shilp-Sampada Loan Scheme:** The Project Cost Limit for this Scheme is Rs. 10 Lakhs. The contribution of the National Corporation is 85 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 %. The loan is made available at 6 % rate of interest up to Rs. 5 Lakhs and at 8 % for loan amounts above Rs. 5 Lakhs. The period of

repayment for this loan is 5 years.

6. **Swarnima Loan Scheme:** The project cost limit for this Loan Scheme is Rs. 75,000 and under this Scheme, preference is given to women. The contribution of the National Corporation is 95 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 % and the loan is made available at 5 % interest.
7. **Micro Loan Scheme:** The project cost limit for this Loan Scheme is Rs. 50,000/-. The contribution of the National Corporation is 90 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 % and the contribution of the beneficiary is 5 %. The loan is made available at 5 % interest.
8. **Mahila Samriddhi Loan Scheme:** The project cost limit for this Loan Scheme is Rs. 50,000/-. The contribution of the National Corporation is 95 %, the contribution from our Corporation is 5 % and the loan is made available at 4 % interest.
9. **Krishi Sampada Loan Scheme:** The project cost limit for this Loan Scheme is Rs. 50,000/-. The contribution of the National Corporation is 95 % and the contribution of the beneficiary is 5 %. The loan is made available at 4 % interest. The period of repayment for this loan is 5 years.
10. **Training Scheme:** Under this Scheme a Grant is made available from the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation for implementing training programs in areas such as Audio/ Video repairing, Plumber, animal husbandry businesses like artificial insemination, milk production and others. The training is provided through this Grant.

SUCCESS DURING PAST 3 YEARS

The past 3 years of the Corporation, the State Government has taken various people oriented decisions. The Authorized Share Capital for Vasantrya Naik Vimukta Jati and



Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation has been enhanced from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore. Due to this, the funds would be available for implementation of various schemes through the Corporation.

The deferred accounts of the Corporation for 9 years from 1997-98 to 2005-2006 have been completed and presented at the Legislature. Hence the 6th Pay Commission has been made applicable to the employees of the Corporation. The income limit for receiving the benefits of the Corporation Schemes which was earlier at Rs. 39,308/- for Rural areas and Rs. 54,494 for Urban areas has been enhanced by the Government and is now at Rs. 1 Lakh. With this, the people from both rural and urban areas who have an income up to Rs. 1 Lakh have been provided with an opportunity to be self reliant without any differentiation. The State Government had made a provision of Rs. 15 crore for the Corporation for the Year 2012-2013. This provision has been enhanced to Rs. 40 crore.

a view to reduce the loan burden of the Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes persons the Government has waived off a loan of Rs. 63.35 crore concerning 47168 persons. During the past 3 years, the Corporation has provided a total financial support of Rs. 368.68 crore to a total of 52,177 beneficiaries with a Seed Capital Loan amounting to Rs. 92.17 crore and Rs. 276.51 crore Loan from various Banks.

Under the Schemes of the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation loans amounting to Rs. 61.74 crore have been distributed to 17244 beneficiaries. ■

Rehabilitation Support

Local Self Government have to reserve 3% of their budget for development of persons with disabilities.

With a view to physical, educational and economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons from the weaker sections in Maharashtra a huge institutional network has been created through the voluntary organizations. Before the enactment of the Handicapped Act Maharashtra was the first State in the Country to adopt and accept a Special School Code for the Handicapped in 1985 alongwith norms for Grants explain Commissioner for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities **Bajirao Jadhav.**

Helen Keller and her teacher Anna have created a history of an excellent strength through their untiring efforts. Taking an inspiration from them the contemporary activists at the National and International levels have handled the subject of handicapped welfare worthy of a special mention.

After independence the persons with disabilities were included in the weaker sections of the Society. Para 46 of the Indian Constitution states, "The State shall take care of Education, Economic and Social Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular and other weaker sections of the Society in general...". Accordingly various Schemes for education and rehabilitation of the Handicapped were initiated at the Central and the State levels.

The United Nations declared 1980-81 as International Year of the Handicapped. The 80-90 decade was declared as Asia-Pacific Decade. As one of the fallouts of this the semi-developed and undeveloped nation, the Government implemented Central Acts.

- Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
- (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Right and full participation) Act 1995.
- The National Trust for Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral palsy,



Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999.

- Mental Health Act 1987

Due to these Acts, an independent role was defined in the field of Handicapped welfare. Accordingly a Commissioner Office for Handicapped Welfare was established. The Government started implementation of various schemes on the preventive items of Handicapped through its various Departments as per provisions of the Act.

A system for reservation of 3% jobs for the handicapped persons in the State Government, Local Self Government, Grant-in-aid institutes and others has started. Due to this

there are many institutions where the handicapped persons can get employed.

STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Education and Training at Government Institutes: The handicapped persons are being provided with education and training at the 21 Government Institutes as well as those handicapped aided/ handicapped unaided/ permanently unaided schools and workshops run by the voluntary organizations. The Government has recently enhanced the maintenance allowance.

Scholarship: Students from the

Schools for handicapped and students from normal schools from Std. Ist to Xth are provided with a Scholarship without conditions of income limit for pre-SSC education. The students are also provided with a Scholarship for Post SSC education in college, technical, vocational and engineering streams. The blind students are provided with reader allowance and all students with disabilities are provided with Tuition Fees, Study tours and other expenses. With a view that the handicapped students receive the amounts without any delay their accounts are opened in a bank and the amounts are credited to their accounts.

Seed Capital for Self-employment: Blind and hearing impaired persons in the age group of 18-50 years are provided with Seed capital up to a limit of Rs. 1.50 Lakhs and for business 80% is provided by the Bank and 20% with a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- is provided as a grant by the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department. A great opportunity for handicapped persons has thus been opened for becoming self reliant.

State Level Sports Competition: The district and State level annual Sports competitions for handicapped persons have been organized by the State Government. The Blind Students Orchestra at Pune, Aurangabad and other places is receiving accolades and thus providing them with an opportunity to step forward in Dramatics and Arts.

Excellence Award: Handicapped students securing the top three positions at the 10th and 12th Examinations conducted by the Secondary and Higher School Secondary Board are felicitated with Rs. 1,000/- cash, Certificate, Shawl and Coconut.

Provision of Artificial Limbs and Rehabilitation Aids: With a view to physical rehabilitation of the orthopedically handicapped they are provided with a financial assistance up to Rs. 3,000/- for calipers, artificial

limbs, 3-wheeler cycle, hearing aids for hearing impaired as well as tape recorders and cassettes for blind students.

Loan for Business: Those handicapped persons between the age group of 18-50 years who have completed a course of training from either a Government or a Government recognized Institute are provided with a financial assistance of Rs. 1,000/- for acquiring tools for the trade in which he has completed his training and wish to start his business.

State Award for Handicapped Welfare: State Awards are given for the Best handicapped staff /self employed person/employer of the handicapped. Every year a total of 12 Best handicapped staff and organizers are felicitated each with Rs. 10,000/- cash and Certificate of Merit. Two employers of the handicapped are felicitated with an Award each of Rs. 25,000/- cash, and Certificate of Merit.

International Day of People with Disabilities: Every year 3rd December is being celebrated as International Day of People with Disabilities in order to create awareness about the persons with disabilities and various problems faced by them. The day is celebrated by organizing various initiatives and awareness is created about the Acts for handicapped and the handicapped persons.

Counseling and Guidance Centre for Disabled: Here the handicapped persons are provided with information on various facilities available for them and they are guided for availing of these facilities. The centres are active at the District Social Welfare Offices.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEME

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme: Under this scheme, a Grant to the voluntary organizations working in the field of handicapped welfare has been provided.

Provision of Artificial Limbs and tools: Under this scheme, the handicapped persons are provided with rehabilitation aids, artificial limbs, 3-wheel cycle, calipers, hearing aids and appliances for mentally retarded and blind persons to an extent of Rs. 6,000/-

National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities: The Scheme is being implemented at Latur, Nashik and Chandrapur Districts of the State. Under the Scheme a State Resources Centers have been established as per classification of disabilities. The centre for hearing impaired is at Nagpur, for Orthopedic is at Virar, for blind it is at Mumbai and for mentally retarded at Shrimati Nathibai Thakersey Research Institute is for, Mumbai and Sewri Hills, Mumbai.

Scheme for the Rehabilitation of the Persons with Disabilities in Rural areas: Under this Scheme, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres have been established to provide artificial limbs and rehabilitation aids as per their needs. These are provided through the Nodal Agency decided by the Central Government. This Scheme is being implemented in Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Latur, Aurangabad, Buldana and Wardha Districts.

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities: Outstanding performance of the employee with disability including self employment, placement officers and employer of persons with disabilities and organization and persons working for the disabled persons are felicitated through National Awards.

Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disability Act 1995: To create an obstacle free environment at all the Government buildings so that all categories of persons with disabilities should be able to easily enter Government buildings, preparation of a website so that there is easy accessibility of all the Government Resolution,



circulars, various schemes and Acts for the persons with disabilities. All such schemes come under this Act. Steps are being taken to make all the Government offices, colleges and hospitals obstacle free for the persons with disabilities.

In order to provide an opportunity for employment and self employment to these persons, Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been established. Various business schemes are being implemented through National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.

Survey for the Handicapped: In order that the State should have exact statistics about the handicapped persons and to properly and precisely plan about their education, training and employment it is important to carry out a survey for the Handicapped in the State. All the Municipal Corporations, Nagar Parishad, and Zilla Parishad in the State have been instructed to carry out a Survey of the handicapped on the lines of the Survey carried out by Zilla Parishad, Pune.

AADHAR Card: The Government has taken remedial measures from time to time so that the AADHAR CARD is available to handicapped persons without problems. Even Mobile vans have been put in to service for the same.

Biometric System: For precise attendance records at the Special

Schools, the Biometric System has been started.

Computerized Disability Certificate: With a view that various schemes for the handicapped should not be misused with wrong or bogus disability certificate, the State Government is providing a Computerized Disability Certificate. For issuing these Certificates, Medical Councils have been established under the State Public Health Department. The State has also developed a software SADM (Software for Assessment of Disability in Maharashtra) the scheme is being implemented in 35 districts to provide computerized certificates to the handicapped.

The Government has taken a special cognizance of the complaints that certain special schools and workshops in the State have been showing an increased strength of students on paper. These schools are being inspected and action is being taken. The recognition of about 55-60 of such schools has been cancelled. The cheating in the name of the handicapped will not be tolerated henceforth. The students who can go to normal schools must be sent to such schools and the inferiority complex in their mind must be removed.

Preventive Measures: The State is committed to the overall development of a person with disabilities. However it is also essential to take preventive measures according to the provisions of the

Law. The Government has provided these preventive measures through various initiatives and health services. The Pulse Polio campaign in the State has been successful in bringing the orthopedic deformities in the State to Zero. At the same time in order that deaf and dumbness or mental retardation should not arrive and for such birth of children could be stopped, it has been thought providing the German preventive vaccine "Rubella" to the adolescent girls could reduce this ratio. Pune Zilla Parishad has earmarked funds of Rs. 1 crore for this purpose and have provided Rubella Vaccine to over 15,000 adolescent girls.

Survey of the handicapped: According to the 2001 Census there were 15.69 Lakh handicapped persons in the State. The Census figures for 2011 are not yet available. However, Pune Zilla Parishad, Raigad Zilla Parishad and Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation have surveyed the handicapped in their respective areas. All other Zilla Parishad and Municipal Corporations have already started for this work. Through this Survey we shall be able to get the statistics about the number of handicapped boys and girls students, number of students going for higher education, the number of students going for technical education, the number of employed persons in private institutions, the number of people in need of business opportunities and will make it possible to implement the measures at District level. As the Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities are Local Self Government entities it will be easier for them to plan and implement training and rehabilitation of the handicapped in their respective areas. The Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporations and Municipalities have to reserve 3% of their budget funds for handicapped development and spend the same only for this purpose. ■

A Helping Hand for the Handicapped...

Software for Assessment of Disability in Maharashtra is being used for provision of computerized disability certificate.

The education and training facilities for the blind, deaf, orthopedic disabled are provided through the Government. Various schemes are being implemented through the Commissioner, Welfare for the Disabled under Social Justice Department with a view of educating the handicapped and their rehabilitation.



The disability of a handicapped person eligible for benefits under various schemes implemented by various Departments for welfare of the persons with disabilities and for the benefit of reservation in Government recruitment has been defined under the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and they are

1. Blindness: This means that when

a person suffers from any of the following conditions.

- a. Total absence of vision
- b. Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 [Snellen] in the better eye even with correction lenses.
- c. Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degrees or worse.

2. Low vision: Person with low

vision means a person with impairment of visual functioning even after treatment or standard refractive correction but who uses or is potentially capable of using vision for the planning or execution of a task with appropriate assistive device.

3. Cured Leprosy: Any person with a cured leprosy but affected with

- any of the following disabilities.
- Loss of sensitivity of hands and feet and loss of sensitivity of the eyelids and partial paralysis of the skin without signs of ugliness.
 - Visibly seen ugliness and partial paralysis of the skin but with enough dexterity of hands and feet to be able to perform daily chores.
 - Extreme physical ugliness and ageing due to which the person is unable to carry out any remunerative business.

Hearing Impairment: Hearing impairment means loss of sixty decibels or more in the better ear in the conversational range of frequencies

Locomotor Disability: Disability of the bones, joints or muscles leading to substantial restrictions of the movement of the limbs which includes Dwarfs, persons with Hunch back, leprosy cured persons, persons suffering from Muscular Dystrophy or any form of Cerebral palsy.

4. Mental Retardation: condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person which is specially characterized by sub-normality of intelligence.

5. Mental Illness: means any mental disorder other than mental retardation.

Officer, Zilla Parishad. The following Schemes are mainly implemented here.

- Running the Government Blind School.
- Providing artificial limbs, hearing aids, medical implements to the persons with disabilities.
- Government Institutes for Blind, Deaf and disabled persons.
- Multipurpose Group Complex for physically handicapped persons.
- Education/training of the blind, deaf and dumb and children with mental retardation through Government and Semi-government schools.
- Training Scheme for the untrained teachers at the Government and Government recognized schools.
- Government school for Deaf and Dumb.
- Central Government and State Government offers Scholarship for physically challenged, blind, deaf and dumb and mentally handicapped.
- Establishment of guidance and counseling Centre at district level for the physically disabled people.
- Seed Capital Scheme for disabled persons for self employment.
- State level Sports Competition for Physically challenged.
- Provision of assisting technology and implements.

Rs. 990/- with effect from 1st January 2012.

DEVELOPMENT AND REHABILITATION

1. Special Recruitment Campaign for Government and Semi-Government Services

Under Rule 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, it is essential to decide on the 3% posts on the establishment of the Central and State Governments for the persons with disabilities and to fill them up. The Government has established a committee for deciding on such posts. The Government has issued instructions for a time bound programme for deciding and filling up of all the posts reserved for the persons with physical disabilities with a special campaign according to the orders passed by Hon. Courts on the Public Interest Litigations.

Considering this the Government is taking a review of the posts being filled as per the reservation for the physically disabled and the backlog since last two years. It was observed that till 31st December 2010 there was a backlog of 5,639 direct recruitment posts and 1332 of promotional posts. After this under a special action plan a total of 1716 posts have been filled up from the direct recruitment process at the moment and for 993 posts, advertisements have been placed by the various departments. The backlog for 332 posts under promotional status has been cleared and the process is under way for clearing the backlog of further 43 promotional posts. A time bound programme has been decided for clearing the backlog of remaining 1,000 posts.

Organizing Job Fair

According to the provision of reservation of 3% posts on the Government establishment, the action to fill up the posts has been undertaken and at the same time with the help of voluntary organizations the

Type of Disability	No. of Disabled persons	Male	Female
Blind	320466	260464	60,002
Dumb	63802	49241	14,561
Deaf	51789	40601	11,188
Orthopedic	374671	195274	1,79,397
Mental Retardation	123139	90135	33,004
TOTAL	9,33,867	6,35,715	2,98,152

SCHEMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

On the District level the schemes for the handicapped at Mumbai City and Suburban districts are being implemented by the Assistant Commissioner, Social Welfare Department and at other Districts through the District Social Welfare

AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEMES

Considering the increase in the Consumer Index and the rising prices the maintenance allowance for the admitted residential persons has been increased from Rs. 630/- to Rs. 900/- and for the mentally retarded residential students from Rs. 630/- to



Handicapped Welfare Commissioner has started special efforts to organize Job Fairs for employment of physically challenged persons in the private sector. Handicapped Welfare Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Pune and the NGO Sarthak Educational Trust, New Delhi have jointly organized a Job Fair at Pune on the 20th and 21st September 2012. A total of 18 companies from Pune and Pimpri participated in the Fair. 405 handicapped persons from the State participated in the Fair and 104 handicapped persons found employment in the private sector.

3. Assistive Technology for Physically Disabled Employees

The persons appointed in the services of the Government and Semi-Government under the territory of State Government have to face many obstacles in delivering their duties and responsibilities. Especially, the totally blind and persons with low vision can carry out their duties successfully if they are provided with assistive technology. Accordingly the State Government has taken a decision on the 27th April 2011 to provide required assistive technology and implements along with information and training to such staff. As per this decision, financial assistance upto Rs 50,000 have been provided to the employees with physical disabilities

and those appointed by the State Government in the future.

4. Biometric system for Special Schools and workshops

A decision has been taken on the 31st March 2011 to engage Biometric system for attendance of students/teachers and staff at the Government and Government aided special schools/workshops run by Social Justice Department due to which it will be possible to keep track of the attendance of students/teachers and staff as well as to prevent bogus enrolment of students.

5. Certificates through Computerized System

For receiving various benefits such as special teachers at the Schools, handicapped scholarship, financial assistance for self employment, Grant under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, provision of artificial limbs and implements, concessions in bus travel, reservation in employment etc, it is essential under the provision of Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 that a person with disabilities should possess Disability Certificate issued by a competent authority. Medical Board have been constituted for issuing such certificates.

Through this medical board, certification of disabilities with it's percentage is being issued. Although

Disability-Free Maharashtra Movement German Missals

Pune Zilla Parishad has taken a step ahead in this direction and is implementing a scheme for Rubella Vaccination for prevention of handicap.

Rubella is a disease resultant from a virus and the same can result in deafness as well as mental retardation. The vaccination programme has been undertaken to prevent this occurrence. An ambitious plan to implement this scheme at all the Districts of the State is being activated.

Primary Information: Rubella disease is caused by a virus. There are reddish spots seen on the body and also eruption of pustules. There is a mild fever and the pustules go down from the face downwards. The spots do not remain for more than 3 days. This is also known as the German measles.

Who can get Rubella: The disease can affect male or female at any age. The disease spreads through the air as well as throat and sneezing. The symptoms are seen within a period of 2-3 weeks of getting affected. However the spread from an ailing person can be seen within 4 days of eruption of pustules.

Dangers for a pregnant woman: If a pregnant woman gets affected by Rubella within the first 3 months of her pregnancy there could be adverse effects on the fetus. The baby can be born with disabilities. Some of these could be cataract, mental retardation, deafness, heart problems etc at birth. Even if the woman gets affected after 3 months of pregnancy one of the above disabilities may still be seen. This disease is also responsible for consecutive abortions and hence it is essential that the women should get the Rubella vaccination before pregnancy.

Vaccination: It is essential that the adolescent girls within the age of 9 to 18 and before their marriage should get Rubella vaccination. All the women within the child bearing age should get Rubella vaccination before marriage and during the first week of the start of their menstruation cycle. They should avoid conceiving for at least a month after vaccination. The effect of vaccination continues for 25 years. Through this vaccination the dangers of handicaps such as mental retardation or deafness at birth can be avoided.

the certificate for a particular disability classification is issued by the experts after certain medical tests so the percentage of disability at various places in the State was not always accurate and reliable. It was also observed that some persons were taking advantage from this

system by availing certificates from the particular places and depriving the true disabled persons from their rights. With a view to provide these facilities to the eligible people, the State Government has adopted a software, SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for access Rehabilitation and Empowerment). This computerized Certificate is accurate and a handicapped person cannot obtain this certificate anywhere else. The system ensures that the benefits of Government Schemes are provided to the truly needy persons. The State Government adopted the software as SADM (Software for Assessment of Disability in Maharashtra) after thorough study and correcting the flaws of the software.

The Computerized Certification process has been implemented in all 35 Districts of the State from 3rd December 2012 through the Public Health Department.

This certificate will show the disability percentage of the handicapped person accurately. At the same time the person cannot go to another District and obtain a certificate. This will ensure that the persons with bogus certificates will not be able to receive the benefits meant for handicapped and the eligible and truly handicapped will only receive the benefits.

Besides this, the beneficiaries of the various schemes are provided

with the benefits directly through their AADHAAR enabled bank accounts.

6. Policy for the handicapped

Various Acts such as Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, The National Association for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999 have been implemented. According to provisions of the Act 1995 it is necessary for the State and Centre to stop machinery for implementation of provisions under these Acts. The Act further emphasizes on the remedial measures against disability, early detection of it, necessary training of the concerned person to treat the patients as quickly as possible and provision of reservation for the persons with disabilities in Government and Semi-Government establishments as well as making available the opportunities for self employment to a maximum. In addition to this, aspects such as positive remedial measures for handicapped persons, creation of barrier-free environment, Complaint redressal system at the Central and State levels have been included in the Act. It is expected that the provisions of the welfare schemes for the persons with disabilities should be undertaken in consideration of the provisions of

this Act.

1. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

For the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, the National Trust Act 1999 has been enacted. According to the Act, it is expected that a trust mechanism should be established for welfare of the persons under these class, establishment of District level Committees, and provision of guardianship for such persons has been expected. For implementing provisions of both Acts through remedial measures by various departments of the Government it is essential to coordinate the efforts of all the departments and properly utilize all the resources for welfare of the person with disabilities through a time bound programme. It has been decided to prepare Maharashtra Government Policy and a Welfare Action programme for the Persons with Disabilities.

Under instructions issued on the 22nd February 2012, the Commissioner for handicapped welfare has constituted a Core Group for finalization of the Action program. This Core Group and the experts at the Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai have jointly organized meetings at Pune and finalized the draft of the Policy for welfare of physically challenged. The draft has recently been submitted to the State Government for approval.

7. Tribunal for the handicapped

The office of the Commissioner, Welfare of Disabilities, was established at Pune in the year 2000. He has been vested with Powers of a Civil Court under the Rules 32 and 63 of the Act for intervening in the petitions in respect of deprivation of rights to handicapped persons. Complaints from all over the State have been preferred at this Tribunal. ■



Honouring the Scholars

The E-scholarship scheme was first implemented in the Gadchiroli district

In order to overcome the problems faced by the students in receiving the scholarship, the State Government decided to implement the E-Scholarship Scheme during 2010-2011. For this 13,000 Colleges and 16 Lakh Backward Class students were first induced to open a Zero Balance Account at a Nationalized Bank, explains **M. M. Atram**, Joint Commissioner (Education)

Mahatma Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had all visualized the dream of Social Equality through the medium of Education. All of them had faith that the discrimination on the basis of Caste and Class in the Society could only be eradicated through the medium of better and qualitative education alone.

Considering this fact the Government of India started Post Matric Scholarship Scheme in the year 1945. The Scheme was handed over to Maharashtra State in the year 1960. Many changes were made to the Scheme from time to time. The last of these changes were made on the 31st

December 2010. According to this, the annual income limit of the parents of Scheduled Caste students eligible for benefit under the Scheme was placed at Rs. 2 lakhs and for parents of other backward class students to Rs. 1 Lakh. Some new Courses were added to the list and the maintenance allowance increased.

Under the Scheme students belonging to the Backward Classes used to fill the form and submit the same to the College earlier. The Principal of the concerned College used to forward these applications to the concerned District Social Welfare Officer. The Social Welfare Officer used to prepare a bill and submit the same to the Treasury. After the

receipt of a Cheque from Treasury, the amount used to be credited to the account of the Principal of the College. The Principals of the Colleges used to give this amount to the Backward Classes students as per own convenience. The process was both tiresome and with delays.

At that time no statistical information regarding the total number of Colleges in the District/State, the courses available at these colleges, the number of Backward Classes students, the number of Backward Classes students staying in Hostels was not available either at the State or District level. Principals of many Colleges failed to submit the proposals to the District Social





Welfare Officer in time and were not releasing payment to the students immediately after sanction of the Scholarship amount from the District Social Welfare Officer. Due to this many students were deprived of the Scholarship.

In order to overcome these problems, State Government decided to implement the E-Scholarship Scheme during 2010-2011. For this 13,000 Colleges and 16 Lakh Backward Class students were first induced to open a Zero Balance Account at a Nationalized Bank. As the Scheme was for Post Matriculation a data base of around 70 Lakhs Backward Class students was procured from the Maharashtra State Secondary and Higher Secondary Board for students who had passed 10th standard examination since 2001. The Software for the Scheme was developed from MASTEK, Mumbai and the Servers were put in to service from Sify, Mumbai at an earlier stage and then got made available from Government of Maharashtra.

In order to provide wide publicity to this Scheme, Joint Commissioner

(Education) from Social Welfare Commissioner office conducted meetings at all the 35 Districts of the State with concerned College Principals. Apart from this, concerned staff from the offices of the Assistant Commissioner, Social Welfare was fully trained in the matters of filling up ONLINE application form, procedure for sanction, preparation of bills at the Pune Branch of MASTEK Company. A Policy Decision was also taken that the benefits of the Scheme will be provided to only those students who open an account with a Nationalized Bank and apply ONLINE.

The Scheme was first implemented in Gadchiroli District from the 15th August 2011 and within a month the same was implemented in the entire State. With this Scheme the Scholarship amount is directly credited to the Bank Account of the Backward Class student and the tuition fees and examination fees are credited directly through ECS to the Bank Accounts of the concerned Colleges. The application form, related information and various reports are available

on the website www.mahaeschol.maharashtra.gov.in.

During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 1715.76 crore has been spent on this project and the benefits have been provided to a total of 14,59,401 Backward Classes students.

In order to make this scheme more effective, the AADHAR CARD NUMBER has been made compulsory for benefits under the scheme on a pilot basis at six Districts namely Pune, Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Amravati, Wardha and Nandurbar. Considering the success of the scheme it will be then implemented in the entire State.

The Social Justice Department has decided to implement various Schemes ONLINE from 2013-14 such as provision of Savitribai Phule Scholarship for Girls from 5th to 7th Standard, Savitribai Phule Scholarship for Girls from 8th to 10th Standard, Maintenance allowance for Backward Class students of Vocational Courses, Scholarship to students in Sainik Schools and Admission process to Government Hostels. ■

Efforts to Protect Youth

The cabinet, in its meeting on June 1, 2011, had given nod to implementation of de-addiction policy in the State

This was a first-of-its-kind literary meet in the country, and it elicited a spontaneous response from the youngsters in the State. It indicated that there is need of working devotedly for the de-addiction and propagation of the campaign against addiction is also necessary. Here are highlights of this first ever literary meet on de-addiction explains **Ganesh Khamgal**.



The growing addiction of liquor and narcotic drugs in the society, and its physical as well as psychological impact on the youths is a worrisome phenomenon. With a

view to create awareness about de-addiction, which would help to create a healthy and strong society, Shivajirao Moghe, Minister for Social Justice and De-Addiction Activity had organised

Literary Meet on De-addiction' under the aegis of the Social Justice Department. This was a first-of-its-kind literary meet in the country, and it received a spontaneous response from the

youngsters in the State. It indicated that there is need of working devotedly for the de-addiction and propagation of the campaign against addiction is also necessary.

The cabinet, in its meeting on June 1, 2011, had given nod to implementation of de-addiction policy in the State. The directive principles in the Indian Constitution lay it down that ban on narcotic substances is desirable for public and private health. In accordance with it, the literary meet was organised at Balgandharva Auditorium Pune.

The two-day De-Addiction Literary Meet saw a traditional 'dindi', symposiums, interviews, cultural programmes, exhibition of books on de-addiction and paintings, the personalities working for creating awareness against addiction were felicitated by Rashtra Pita Mahatma Gandhi Vyasankmukti Seva Puraskar .

The meet started on October 2, 2012, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. A traditional procession called 'Dindi' was taken out from Shaniwarwada to Balgandharva auditorium. Members of Warkari sect from Alandi, Vyasankmukti Yuvak Sangh - Maharashtra, Nashabandi Mandal, Karve Samajseva Sanstha, Bharti Vidyapith, Pune University, Acharya Vinoba Bhave Loksevak Sangh, Mukangan, and various other organisations and persons who work in the field of de-addiction took part in the Dindi, which featured traditional folk art forms such as bhaarud, povaada, as well as street plays and tribal dance.

The meet was inaugurated by Governor of Maharashtra, K. Sankaranarayanan. He said in his address, "Addiction is harmful not for the individual but for the family, society, and consequently the whole nation. This social ill cuts across the social strata, geographies. Therefore, this meet, which starts on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, is a laudable initiative of the Social Justice Department.

Shivajirao Moghe, who presided over

FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED DURING THE MEET

1. Maharashtra, for the the first time in the country, has framed and implemented De-addiction Policy. This must not stay confined to the State-level.
2. The message about de-addiction is disseminate by the social workers through people education. The people doing praiseworthy work in the field of de-addiction should be felicitated by President's awards. Appeal for delivering such awards should be made to Central Government
3. It should be made mandatory for every library to have literature regarding de-addiction activities.
4. Films, plays, television serials should contribute to de-addiction
5. Celebrities should avoid acting in the advertisements of objects which creates addiction.
6. The collegians should be roped in for propagation and dissemination of de-addiction activities in the society.
7. State-level One-act play competition should be organised for de-addiction campaign.
8. For effective implementation of de-addiction campaign at government level Folk art competitions should be organised.

the function, said, "Pune is a cultural centre. Mahatma Phule, Tilak, Agarkar started their life's work in Pune, which reached out to the entire country. What starts in Pune, spreads everywhere. That's why the city witnessed many social reforms and movements in the past. By hosting the first de-addiction literary meet, Pune has maintained its tradition. As Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has said, the healthy citizens make the country strong, the efforts should be taken for the awareness against de-addiction. To create awareness about the de-addiction, -literature should be made available to youth which describes disastrous consequences of addiction.

Renowned social worker, Dr Anil Awachat, who presided over the Literary Meet, said, "Addiction means buying death with one's own money, destroying the invaluable gift of life. Such literary meets is the need of the hour."

Minister of State Sachin Ahir said, "The young generation should stay away from addiction. Health is the foundation of success in any field so one should not expose his life to danger by becoming addicted."

Various cultural programmes were staged by the artistes from across the State who use the medium of folk arts to spread awareness about effects of addiction.

On the next day, the institution and personalities effectively working in the State against de-addiction were felicitated with the Mahatma Gandhi Vyasankmukti Seva Puraskar. On this occasion, Minister for Co-operation and Parliamentary Affairs, Harshvardhan Patil said, "De-addiction campaign must become a peoples movement. Creation of law would not curb addiction; the efforts to root out addiction should be supported by peoples movement.

Justice Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari said on this occasion, "Person must be screened at the time of recruitment in the Government service for addictions. Without people's response, the law is of no use. The people response is necessary for the eradication of addiction from the society besides implementation of law for de-addiction. It is very necessary to implant the law in the society through movement against addiction.

While addressing the public, social worker and brand ambassador of de-addiction activities, Sindhutai Sapkal said, "The young generation must concentrate on inculcating good values of patriotism, social work in them rather than addiction, which is harmful to them and also to the society."

This ever Literary Meet on de-addiction was also acknowledged at the national level. ■

A Policy for Addiction Free Maharashtra...

The State level de-addiction regulatory board would be formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister

Maharashtra is celebrating the Birth Centenary of Yashwantrao Chavan, the Architect of Modern Maharashtra. Maharashtra has its identity as a progressive State while striding on the thoughts of Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar in implementing the Social reforms. Keeping in line with the progressive attitude, the Social Justice Department of the State has just unveiled its De-addiction Policy...

The State is taking a stupendous step in crafting an addiction-free and fearless Maharashtra State. The Social Justice Department is fully geared to implement the De-addiction Policy and Minister for Social Justice Shivajirao Moghe is personally reviewing the policy implementation related issues. With this in view meetings of the administrative officers from various departments have been held. For effective implementation of this policy a decision has been taken by the Department to create a State Level Regulatory Board and Committees at District and Taluka level.

Prohibition has been implemented at the State since 1950. The work of prohibition propaganda and education was earlier attached to this Department. However the subject was handed over to the Social Justice Department in 1990. This department was working under the Zilla Parishad at the time. After 2000 many posts under the Department were abolished and some others were considered surplus and adjusted elsewhere. At one time there were doubts even about the existence of the Department. However Minister for Social Justice Shivajirao Moghe has renewed the work of Prohibition propaganda. The Minister crafted

an independent policy in the year 2011.

During the first year of the implementation of the Policy 2nd October 2011 was celebrated as the De-addiction Day. De-addiction week was celebrated between 2nd and 7th October. With a view that the policy should not be limited to celebrate the Day and the Week and that there should be an effective implementation of the policy, the Government has taken positive steps during the last six months.

DE-ADDICTION POLICY

The De-addiction policy is not limited to the liquor prohibition alone. It includes all the addictions such as Tobacco, Gutkha, Afeem and others that adversely affect the social structure and the social health. The following Acts and rules have been made under the same.

Production: In order that the illegal manufacture and sale of these items are fully banned, the Senior officers at the concerned Police Stations, officers of the State Excise Department, officers of the Food and Drugs Administration and other officers of concerned departments would be held responsible.



SALE OF LIQUOR ON LIQUOR CONSUMING LICENSES

A. Under Rule 70(3) of the Mumbai Foreign Liquor Rules 1953 and Government Notification dated the 13th November 2009, a person with Liquor consumption License would be allowed only up to 2 bottles (750 ml each) per week.

B. The minimum age for acquiring a soft liquor consumption license under Rule 70(D) of the Bombay Foreign Liquor Rules 1953 has been made as 21 years and for other country and foreign liquors the same would be 25 years.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR

A. Persons consuming liquor and creating nuisance at public places would be dealt with the Rule 85 (1)(a)

(b) and (2) of the Bombay Prohibition Act 1949 as well as the other rules in force.

VALID LIQUOR SALE LICENSES

A. The License will not be granted for a Liquor Bar within 75 meters from an educational or social institute, Government office, gardens, hospitals, libraries, religious places as well as National and State highways. The same for country liquor will not be given within 50 meters within the area of Municipal Corporation and within 100 meters at other places.

B. While any grant or transferring of License for liquor sale, it would be essential to obtain a resolution of the Gramsabha and a No Objection Certificate from the Area Committee of the concerned areas within the Nagar Parishad, Municipal Council or Municipal Corporation. Such resolution should be with the consent of a minimum of 50% of the total electorate or 50 percent of the women voters from the Gram-panchayat area/Corporation/Nagar Parishad/Nagar Panchayat areas concerned.

RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS

A minimum of 25 percent of the total voters and 25 percent of women voters in any areas of Gram Panchayat area/ Corporation/Nagar Parishad/Nagar Panchayat can demand in writing to the concerned Tehsildar or District Collector for closure of a Liquor Shop in their area.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The District Collector would complete the action of completing the secret voting within a period of 30 days from the receipt of a valid demand for closure of a Liquor Shop and based on the resolution by the concerned Gram Panchayat / Municipal Corporation/ Nagar Parishad/Nagar Panchayat ward complete the action for the cancellation of the License for such a shop within a period of 3 months.

B. The Commissioner/District Magistrate or Sub-Divisional

Magistrate would enforce extradition from the District on persons found and proved to have committed crimes of production, sale and storage or trafficking of illicit liquor under the Mumbai Liquor Prohibition Act 1949.

C. The concerned Police official would be liable for action under the rules that do not cooperate on prohibition with the members of De-addiction committee/villagers and the members of the Gram Rakshak Dal.

D. The State will observe a total of 9 Dry Days. Apart from this the District Collector could declare 3 additional days as Dry Days.

E. If the Grampanchayat Prohibition Committee or the Gram Rakshak Dal, or de-addiction workers from the Local self Government and members of women SHG provide the information about the illicit liquor to the State Excise or Police Department, the same will be attended to immediately and legal action would be taken.

THE DUTIES OF GRAM SABHA

Under Rule 54 of the Mumbai Grampanchayat Act and provisions made under List 15 of Annexure 1, it is the duty of a Grampanchayat to appoint a De-addiction Committee for working and propaganda for liquor prohibition as well as de-addiction.

PROPAGANDA AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

A. All educational institutions will include information about the evil effects of liquor in their curriculum .

B. The noted days such as for Anti-Drugs Day, Anti-Tobacco Day, Anti-smoking Day, Prohibition Day and Weeks should be observed. On such days there should be a awareness procession from the schools.

C. Slide show/documentary should be screened on the evil effects of all the addictions and the same should be exhibited at all the schools and colleges, fairs, Ganeshotsav, Women meetings and other community events.

D. To propagate de-addiction through the medium of Kirtan and other folk arts.

TRAINING FOR DE-ADDICTION

A. The work experience of the campaigning for de-addiction should be made compulsory for students at all the Institutes of Social Work and make them to participate in the propaganda for de-addiction. To provide training for de-addiction work syllabus for same should be included in the course of Auxiliary Nurse, Midwife and Multipurpose Health Workers .

B. To achieve participation of Alcoholic Anonymous and other such organizations and their workers in the propagation of de-addiction.

TREATMENT FOR ADDICTION

A. Providing the counseling facilities for addicted Government employees.

B. To appoint Psychotherapist experts and those trained in social work as Advisor on Prohibition and de-addiction. Treatment for addiction would be available at all the four Mental Hospitals in the State.

C. 10 beds at every District Hospital from the Psycho therapy ward would receive patients for de-addiction. Necessary facilities will be created for treatment of the addicted.

In order to exert an effective control of the aspects of policy for De-addiction and its effective implementation , a State level De-addiction Regulatory Board is being formed. Besides this, District and Taluks level Committees are being established. The State level Regulatory board would be functioning under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The same will consist of the Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Social Justice (De-addiction Activities), Minister for State Excise, Minister of State for Social Justice and two eminent personalities related and working in the social field of de-addiction activities. ■

Kavyaphule-Life Sketch of Savitribai

Each poem brings out a different aspect of Savitribai's nature and thoughts

The book besides offering the non-Marathi readers the treat of Savitribai's poems in English, it illuminates a little known side of her multi faceted personality as one of the first radical poets of 19th century India, says **Lalitha Dhara**.

The book 'Kavyaphule' in English retains the title of the original collection of Savitribai's poems that was first published in 1854. It consists of the English translation of all 41 poems from the collection, along with a life-sketch of Savitribai and her role in the 19th Century reform movement in Maharashtra and also her journey as the first radical poet of Maharashtra. This book is a virtual treat for non-Marathi readers as it opens up an entire era of the cultural renaissance of Maharashtra that took place in the 19th Century and which has not been adequately reported in English history books.

This book has been edited and published by Prof. Lalita Dhara with the support of Dr. Ambedkar College. The book opens with a comprehensive life-sketch of Savitribai the reformer, penned by Lalita Dhara, followed by a brilliant article on Savitribai, the first modern radical poet contributed by Jaswandi Wamburkar, University of Mumbai and all 41 poems of Savitribai translated into English by Ujjwala Mhatre.

The significance of this book is that besides offering the non-Marathi readers the treat of Savitribai's poems in English, it illuminates a little known side of her multi faceted personality as one of the first radical poets of 19th century India.

The first half of the book is made up of a life sketch of Savitribai that



traces her amazing journey from being a child bride to being a close confidant and associate of her social reformer husband, Jotirao Phule and ultimately an independent social reformer who took up every imaginable cause on behalf of women and the oppressed castes and continued the good work started by the Satyashodhak Samaj even after her husband's death. Despite stiff opposition from the dominant castes she stood her ground with her husband and both of them built a social movement that opposed social evils like child marriage, depriving girls of education,

widow tonsure, sexual oppression of widows, sati, the caste system and untouchability. They fought for the right to draw water from public water bodies for the untouchables, the right to education for girls, the right of widow remarriage and inclusion of widows in public life. The Phule couple was not just an integral part of the renaissance that unfolded in Maharashtra during the 19th century but also added a radical feminist dimension to this movement, an understanding which few other reformers showed. The second article in this part of the book is about Savitribai's

contribution as the first modern, radical poet to the literature of 19th century Maharashtra. This puts her flowering as a poet, in context with the unfolding cultural upheaval of the times. Under the yoke of colonial rule English education was introduced and along with it came an exposure to modern, western values such as liberty, equality, fraternity and individual development. This further led to a cultural renaissance, a movement that sought to break the bonds of medievalism and embrace modern, liberal values. It is against this backdrop that Savitribai Phule was inspired to write verse. Her poems spoke of the need for education, the oppression of the untouchables and women, the necessity of breaking free of Brahmanical tyranny and learning to live with self respect and dignity. Though Savitribai's thought process was certainly guided by her husband and mentor, Jotiba Phule, she also showed an independence of spirit and a keen understanding of social issues. While taking up cudgels on behalf of women and the oppressed castes along with Jotiba Phule and their other associates, Savitribai was infused with the spirit of social change and expressed her thoughts through her letters to Jotiba and through her poems. Savitribai represented the new woman who was born from the turmoil of social change and worked tirelessly to take the idea of a new society based on equality and dignity to the people at large. Jotiba Phule led a social revolt against the exploitation of the untouchables and women both by the British colonial system and the Brahmanical social order. He founded the Satyashodhak Samaj which sought to rid society of the caste system and the domination of the priestly and commercial castes which he termed as the 'bhatji-shetji' combine. The Phule couple with their friends like Fatima Sheikh fought social evils like child marriage, banishment of widows from the social sphere, the concept of untouchability and several rites and rituals that were designed to keep the discriminatory nature of society intact and perpetuate the slavery of the



downtrodden.

The second half of the book consists of 41 poems from Savitribai's Kavyaphule, translated into English. Each poem brings out a different aspect of Savitribai's nature and thoughts. Some are historical poems like the ones on Shivaji and Rani Tarabai, while others show her great respect for Jotiba and his radical thoughts. She writes,

“...I pay my respects to Jotiba,
my lord, so dear
His mellifluous words
resonate in my ear
I serve the Mahar-Mang
considered outcasts
Memories of my beloved
lord fill my heart
The path of service and truth
brings fulfillment
And fills one's soul with peace
and contentment...”

Her love for nature is reflected in poems like “The Golden Champa” in which she says,

“... This blossoming beauty
stands apart
And silently does it steal my heart...
A charming colour, pomp and style
Its fragrance does my mind beguile...”
Her social activist side is expressed



in poems like “The dependence of the Shudras” in which she laments,

“...The outcasts and untouchables,
hounded by ignorance
Gods, religion, rites and rituals,
drained by their indigence...”

or in another poems where she gives a clarion call,

“... Rise my brethren, O outcasts,
awake and arise!

To escape the bondage of
tradition, rise! ...”

Thus Savitribai the teacher, Savitribai the social reformer and Savitribai the radical poet are all introduced to us in this book along with historical facts about the 19th century renaissance and is a must read for non-Marathi readers. (Photo courtesy: www.mahatmaphule.com). ■



Delhi Diary

Assuring the Drought Relief

Jayant Pawar bestowed with the Sahitya Akademy Award 2012 for his short story "Phoenixchya Rakhatoon Uthala Mor".

The State Government received Central Government assistance to mitigate drought situation in Maharashtra. The planning for next three months of summer and till the arrival of monsoon at the time of Mriga Nakshatra is being carried out by the Central Government. Accordingly financial assistance of Rs 778 crore has been provided to the State for basic facilities.

In a huge country like India it becomes a very complicated affair to precisely enlighten the Central Government about calamities taking place in some parts of various States. It is tightrope walk to implement specific remedial measures on various problems in the Country. However Maharashtra has been lucky enough that it has an experienced leadership that vehemently places the State as well as fully understands where and when to plead effectively. It is due to this that from the North Block in Delhi to the residence of the Prime Minister, the drought situation in Maharashtra has been understood. The devastation caused has been felt right from 10, Janpath to 7, Race Course Road. This has resulted in a stream of Central Government assistance to mitigate the famine in the State. The laurels for this go to the Delhi System experience wielded by the leadership of the Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, his excellent coordination and rapport with Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar as well as Union Minister for Home, Sushil Kumar Shinde on this subject...In short the State leadership has been successful in presenting the severe intensity of the drought at the Central level.

However this has not been a full stop as a positive follow up has been planned at Delhi over the next six months. During the month



of November the Chief Minister accompanied by all the Ministers from the State had placed the calamity in precise terms before the Empowered Committee of Senior Ministers for drought. The Union Minister for Agriculture, Sharad Pawar is the Chief of this Committee. He had sent a team headed by Joint Secretary R.B. Sinha to drought areas of Maharashtra immediately after the presentation. The planning for next three months of summer and till the arrival of monsoon at the time of Mriga Nakshatra is being carried out by the Central Government. Accordingly financial assistance of Rs 778 crore has been provided to the State for basic facilities.

However as this help is not enough, the Chief Minister requested

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the 30th January 2013 to provide a total funding of Rs. 2270 crore for State Drought Relief. During the same meeting he also placed a demand for providing subsidy on Diesel for fishermen as earlier. The fishermen were in a mood to agitate over hike of Rs. 12 in Diesel prices. The Chief Minister also followed up this demand with the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas M. Veerappa Moily. He also attracted attention of the prime Minister to this problem. On the 7th February 2013, the Mumbai fishermen received the welcome news. The Government acknowledged that the fishermen were retail purchasers of Diesel. They will now get the same subsidy on Diesel as earlier. This is the success

achieved through constant follow up.

The follow up is not limited to the Prime Minister's Office alone. Rashtrapati Bhawan has also felt the pangs of drought situation in Maharashtra. Governor of Maharashtra also demanded for funds to be made available for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit projects in the State at a two day Conference of the Governors held on the 11th and 12th February 2013. While placing this demand Governor also suggested that the projects would be completed timely if 70% funding is made available at the beginning of the projects. Governor also placed the backlog of irrigation projects in areas such as Vidarbha, Marathwada before the conference and demanded speedy completion of irrigation projects in these regions. It is expected that this follow up at the Delhi, Raisina Hills will definitely bring something worthwhile to the State.

With an immense knowledge about pangs of the farmers and proper maintenance of agriculture, the Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar chaired the 5th National Conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries here on the 6th February 2013. He has aimed at maintaining the development rate at 4% in the Agricultural sector. A brainstorming is on how to use our asset as largest producer of milk in the world and having highest animal wealth for creating opportunities for supplementary business to agriculture. Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Madhukarrao Chavan participated in this Conference. While demanding fodder for the drought affected areas, he asked for authorized records for inter-state trading during the period. He emphasized on the Artificial Insemination Control Act, Reproduction Control Act, Training for animal farming and use of Milk powder in School Nutrition Programme.

Understanding the severity of drought situation in the State, all the Union Ministers are trying their level best. Recently, Union Minister of State for Coal, Pratik Patil, held meetings with Union Minister for Water Resources, Harish Rawat and requested him for supporting the Tembhu Lift Irrigation Scheme and the drought conditions in Sangli District.

With a view for industrial development of Vidarbha the Chief Minister has organized VIDARBHA ADVANTAGE 2013 at Nagpur. Shivajirao Moghe, Minister for Social Justice had a dialogue with media



A Senior journalist, creative literary figure and acclaimed Playwright Jayant Pawar felicitated at Maharashtra Information Centre at New Delhi.

in order to appeal the National level investors. A National discussion on the Amendment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes prevention of Atrocities Act was held at the Vigyan Bhawan on the 20th February 2013. Participating in the discussion, Minister for Social Justice Shivajirao Moghe appealed for creating social awareness about this Act. He questioned the necessity of a special constitutional provision for such an Act and said that the common man should be provided with positive information about the same.

During the same month the 6th Conference of the Power Ministers of States/UTS was held here. A demand was placed for a regular

supply of Coal and Gas for the State. Maharashtra State is in the final stages of becoming load shedding free and has become 82% free from load shedding. It was also requested that the delay in receiving the fuel supplies for electricity projects in the State needs to be looked in to. The request was made by Rajendra Mulak, Minister of State for Power. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jyotiraditya Scindia and the State Energy Secretary Ajay Mehta were present on the occasion. The electricity seepage has been brought down from 18 % to 3 %. The State is effectively implementing Central Schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme (RGGVY) and Reconstructed Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (R-APDRP) and the positive results of the same are seen in the State. He called the attention of the gathering to the fact that although Maharashtra State is marching towards self sufficiency in the Energy Sector, there are a few problems arising out of the fuel supplies.

During the same period a coveted Award was declared providing a zest to the literary circles of the State. A Senior journalist, creative literary figure and acclaimed Playwright Jayant Pawar was bestowed with the 2012 Sahitya Akademy Award for his short story "Phoenixchya Rakhatoon Uthala Mor". All the media in Delhi carried this news with pride. At a programme "Meet The Press" organized by the Maharashtra Information Centre, Jayant Pawar appealed for nationwide translation of literature from various languages. He observed that this will bring about a cultural exchange at a National level. During the World Book Exhibition held in the month of February at Pragati Maidan a lot Marathi books were available for Marathi readers. This was a special event for all Marathi residents from Delhi. ■

- Pravin Takey



Rs. 414 Crore Funds for Water Supply

In order to fill the water supply resources of drought affected areas of Sangli and Satara districts, the State has taken initiatives of waiving of electricity bills of lift irrigation schemes such as Takari, Tembhu, Mhaisal in Satara and Sangli, Janai-Shirsai, Purandar and Urmodi in Pune and Muktainagar in Jalgaon. For water supply, so far State Government has given funds of Rs. 414 crore to Water Supply Department.

POWERS TO REPAIRS OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES EXTENDED



Rs 25 crore has been provided to enable water from Tembhu Irrigation Project to be transported to the Birnal Lake, which supplies water to Jat town in Sangli. For immediate measures for water supply schemes and special repairs of the schemes, the powers of District Collectors and Divisional Commissioners have been extended to Rs.25 lakh and Rs. One crore respectively. The expenditure occurring on account of filling up water tankers and to acquire power pumps and oil engines on rent will be met from scarcity fund. 67 per cent concession has been given in electricity bills of independent water

supply schemes supplying water to villages. More rates than the Central Government have been fixed for cattle in camps.

SOLACE TO DROUGHT AFFECTED

In order to give solace to drought affected, all members of cabinet decided to donate one month's salary towards drought relief fund. Considering the SSC and HSC exam there will be no night load shedding till end of March.

From the funds of District Planning Board, 15 per cent funds will be spent on works related to eradicate scarcity permanently such as constructing cement dams, etc.

To stop migration of people due to drought, the concerned District Collectors have been directed to pay attention to make arrangements for water supply and sufficient employment opportunities. The decision has been taken to pour tanker water in sintex water tanks instead of wells. As a social responsibility such sintex tanks are being made available by Nationalised Banks, Cooperative Sugar factories and various industrial sectors.

WATER SUPPLY THROUGH 2,020 TANKERS



Water is supplied through 2,408 tankers to the drought affected 5,195 hamlets of 1880 villages of the State. Still scarcity affected areas will be supplied water urgently through tankers.

During drought situation for providing works to people in villages itself, a total of 23,355 works with 2,26,423 labourers have been taken up under Maharashtra State Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. In Ahmednagar 231 cattle camps have been opened. Pune-1, Satara-105, Sangli-30, Solapur-126, Beed-27, Osmanabad-7 and in Jalna-18 camps have been opened up. So far, Rs.329 crore have been spent on this.

DAUGHTERS OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS

In line with the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act (1994) daughters were accorded equal right to parental property. Accordingly, daughters of persons affected by Government projects will have equal rights in ancestral property.

According to the cabinet decision, the Maharashtra State Resettlement and Rehabilitation Act 1999 will be amended to alter the definition of a project-affected person. The changes will include new words and mention that PAP benefits/rights will pass on to the "son/daughter" and "brother/sister".

PALM OIL SUPPLY AT RS.50 PER LITRE

The scheme to supply palm oil at concessional rate to ration card

holders has been extended upto August 2013 under which palm oil will be sold at concessional rate of Rs.50 per litre.

CERTIFIED SEEDS PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Seed Village Programme will be implemented to promote the shortage of high quality seeds of Jowar, Bajra, Rice, and wheat, pulses and oil seeds, 100 per cent pure seeds production programme will be implemented through five-year plan.

Under the scheme Seed Processing Centres for processing seeds and godowns for storage of seeds will be constructed.

It is planned to produce 80,000 quintals yearly of seeds of Jowar, Bajra, Rice, wheat and pulses for which Rs.500 per quintal, thus Rs.4 crore financial assistance will



be extended. For processing seeds the Farmers Association will give 50 percent assistance (Rs.20 lakh for each Seed Processing Centre), thus every year 30 Seeds Processing Centres will be set up in the State and to store these processed seeds for each seed warehouse Rs.10 lakh assistance will be given, thus every year 30 seed warehouses will be set up in the State. The beneficiaries of this scheme are farmers/farmers Associations/Seeds Producing Institutes/Mahabeej.

For the scheme for every year Rs.13 crore, thus total Rs.65 crore funds will be provided.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES TO TALUKA SEEDS QUALITY AREA

In order to provide best and assured quality seeds to farmers, the Taluka Seed Quality Centres have become



operational. There are total 194 Taluka Seed Quality Centres in the State and to protect and increase irrigation facilities of these centres, approval has been given to State level Taluka Seed Infrastructure Facilities Enhancement Scheme.

The scheme will be implemented on office territory basis, this will not benefit any individual. Every year Rs.5 crore will be spent on the scheme thus funds of Rs. Five crore have been made available.

14 NEW HOSTELS FOR GIRLS

In order to stop drop out ratio of girls in higher education and considering all society stratas and to increase their educational qualifications, 14 hostels have been constructed at 12 places.

This includes 9 new hostels to be constructed in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Nanded, Solapur, Panvel, Gadchiroli and Jalna. 2 will be constructed at Nagpur, one each at Aurangabad, Kolhapur and Amravati. Thus 5 hostels will be extended.

PRE IAS TRAINING CENTRE AT NASHIK AND AMRAVATI



Pre IAS training centres at Yashwantrao Chavan Open University in Nashik and in the precincts of Government Knowledge Science College at Amravati have been started. With this decision such training

centres will become functional in all revenue divisions benefiting the potential students from rural areas.

NEW COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY FOR DOCUMENT REGISTRATION

Alongwith the regular system of stamp duty payment system through stamp paper, franking, e-stamping, the cabinet has approved the proposal to pay stamp duty, registration and service charges for registration of documents through eSBTR (electronic secured banking-cum-treasury receipt) system, which is the safest. This system will benefit citizens as well as the administration. Citizens will not be required to go to crowded Government offices for paying stamp duty. You can opt for a simple receipt or an eSBTR.

GOVERNMENT APPROVED LIBRARY VERIFICATION

A comprehensive verification report of Government public libraries of the State was submitted to the cabinet. Following decisions were taken.



The 5,784 libraries fulfilling all rules and regulations, alongwith regular assistance will be eligible for 50 per cent more assistance. The 5,788 libraries with flaws are given three months time to overcome these and their report will be submitted to for re-verification before the cabinet. Registration of 914 recognised libraries eligible for de-recognition should be de-recognised as per prescribed rules. No new library should be given recognized or its standard should not be enhanced till further orders from the cabinet. Henceforth it will be mandatory for each library to make use of UID. ■

Awards and Felicitations

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR SAMAJIK NYAYA PRAVINYA PURASKAR

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samajik Nyaya Pravinya Puraskar given to excellent Government/aided institutions from October 13, 2003. The Government has started Governemnt hostels, aided hostels and ashramshalas to provide adequate educational facilities to students from Backward Classes. In order to elevate the standard of these institutions 3 awards are given at State Lelvel and one award at divisional level. Divisionsal Lelvel award is of Rs 1 lakh and State level first, second and third awards are of Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh respectively.

institution working for the betterment of charmakars and other dalits of the State. Every year on February 6, on the birth anniversary of Sant Rohidas. Rs.21,000 are given to individual and Rs,30,001 to an institution.



KARMAVEER PADMASHRI DADASAHEB GAIKWAD AWARD



The award of Rs.51,000 each is given to a person and an institution. The award was started from October 15, 2002.

LOKSHAIR ANNA BHAU SATHE AWARD

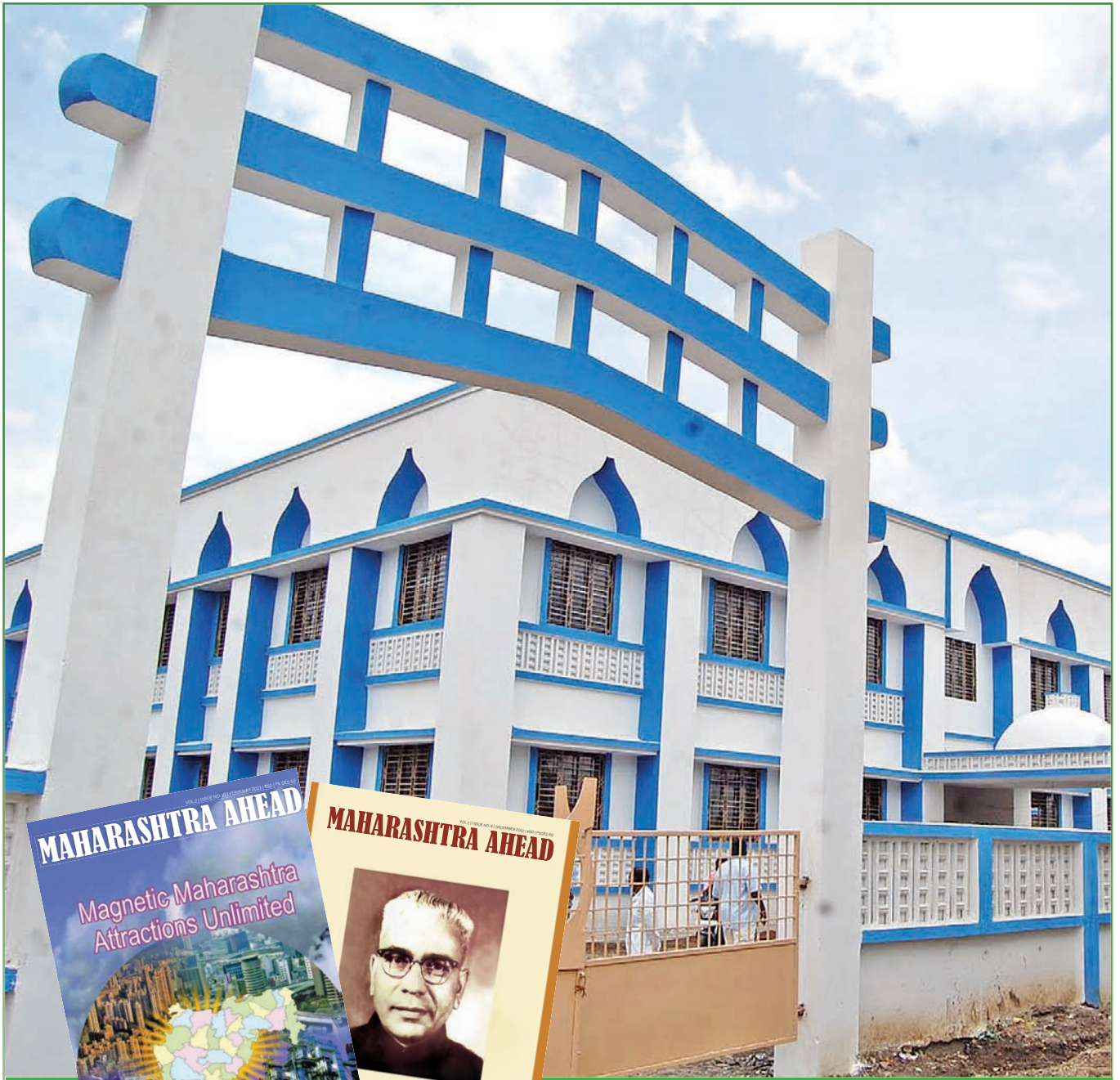
Lokshair Anna Bhau Sathe Award is given to artists, litterateur and social workers from matang community of the State from



SANT ROHIDAS AWARD

The award was started from 2004. The award is given to an individual and an

the year 1997-98. Artists and litterateur are given Rs.15,000 and an institution is given Rs.25,000.



O.I.G.S. Presented by The Government of India

MAHARASHTRA AHEAD

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