

Maharashtra Ahead

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FULFILMENT OF COMMITMENT

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after taking the reins had promised the people of State to build an international memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on the land of Indu Mills. Before the completion of one year, the Chief Minister was successful

in acquiring the land for the monument. Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the *bhoomipujan* for the project on October 11.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, the Prime Minister said, Panchteerth (five sites associated with Bharat Ratna

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's life) should become inspiration for those working for social equality. He suggested that the visitors to the site should plant one tree brought from their village. This way, 40,000 villages will be connected to the place.

The Prime Minister added

that the memorial should be filled with trees and become an oasis of peace and tranquility. Appreciating the role of the Maharashtra Government, he said that it is helping preserve the London house, where Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar lived, and the Panchteerth.



(Top) Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing the *bhoomipujan* of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial to be constructed at Indu Mills in Mumbai in the presence of Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Cabinet Ministers of Maharashtra and senior Government officials. (Bottom) Concept design of the grand memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar to be set up in Mumbai



05

INTERVIEW CHIEF MINISTER

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis completes one year in the office. In the first year, he marched forward relentlessly, braving the challenges of the State and pursuing its many dreams



07

MILESTONES PRO-PEOPLE, PROACTIVE

In past 12 months, Government of Maharashtra looked at progress differently, ushering in smart decisions and new initiatives



52

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM GOVERNMENT TO PEOPLE

Past year's journey for DGIPR has been memorable, as its channels worked round the clock with the new Government to take ahead its many endeavours



55

HIGHLIGHTS GAME CHANGERS

The State witnessed the launch of many welfare schemes and people-friendly initiatives in past one year. We look at the most important and successful programmes



COLUMNS

CABINET MINISTERS

Ek Nath Khadse	10
Subhash Desai	12
Sudhir Mungantiwar	14
Diwakar Raote	16
Vinod Tawde	18
Ramdas Kadam	20
Prakash Mehta	22
Ek Nath Shinde	24
Chandrakant Dada Patil	26
Dr. Deepak Sawant	28
Smt. Pankaja Munde	30
Vishnu Savra	32
Girish Bapat	34
Girish Mahajan	36
Chandrashekhar Bawankule	38
Babanrao Lonikar	40
Rajkumar Badole	42

STATE MINISTERS

Dilip Kamble / Sanjay Rathod	44
Smt. Vidya Thakur / Dadaji Bhuse	45
Prof. Ram Shinde / Vijay Shitvare	46
Vijay Deshmukh / Deepak Kesarkar	47
Raje Ambrishrao Atram / Ravindra Waykar	48
Dr. Ranjit Patil / Pravin Pote Patil	49

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

THE ERA OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

On October 31 this year, the Government led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis turns one. A busy year for the Government, it witnessed Maharashtra entering a new era of governance driven by competent, people-oriented growth, transparent and pro-active administration. The mission of transforming the State led the Government launch ambitious schemes and go for innovative decisions. The mega development programmes such as Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, Make in Maharashtra, Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan, Aaple Sarkar and Right to Services Act are now being effectively implemented in the State.

During the last year, the Chief Minister put special emphasis on the implementation of **Jalyukta Shivar Yojana**. Currently active in 6,200 villages of the State, the flagship scheme has successfully managed 24.59 TMC water that can irrigate 6 lakh ha agriculture land. With traditional methods, the scheme would have cost ₹13,000 crore, but with the participation of people, the State managed the result in mere ₹1,400 crore.

Under industrial development and investment, the State Government launched the ambitious **Make in Maharashtra** project, which has so far brought Maharashtra an investment of ₹1 lakh crore from global corporate giants and employment opportunities for one lakh people. The other major projects include Smart City, metro rails in Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune, a coastal road and Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Maharashtra to lay the foundation of the memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at Indu Mills, Mumbai. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the five landmarks associated with the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, i.e. his

birthplace at Mahu in Madhya Pradesh, a house in Delhi which witnessed the legend working on the draft of Indian Constitution, his family's house at Ambegaon in Ratnagiri district, international memorial at Indu Mills and the house in London where he stayed during his stint at the London School of Economics will be developed as **Panchteerth**. Indeed, it is a matter of pride for the State.

The November issue carries the status and relevant information of various welfare schemes, decisions and welfare programmes launched by the Government during past one year. With its various channels, *Lokrajya*, *Maharashtra Ahead*, *Urdu Lokrajya*, *Mahanews*, *Dilkhulas* and *Jai Maharashtra*, Directorate General of Information and Public Relations effectively disseminated the information to people.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Manisha Patankar-MhaikarEditor-in-Chief, *Maharashtra Ahead*, DGIPR



INTERVIEW / CHIEF MINISTER

“Maharashtra is on the path of **speedy** transformation”

Dreams don't work unless you do and Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** personifies the adage the best. As he completes a year in office, he comes closer to his dream of making Maharashtra the topmost State in the country. Many long-pending projects have seen light of the day, while many new ones will be launched. Read on about the year that was and the future that will in words of the Chief Minister



Q. What would you call your Government's biggest success in the last year?

A. It is undoubtedly Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, which we have implemented in 6,200 villages within eight months. So far, we have managed to store 24 TMC water that can bring around 6 lakh hectares under irrigation. If we had followed earlier Government's method, it would have cost us ₹13,000 crore and taken three years. With the flagship scheme, we achieved the same result in ₹1,400 crore, of which ₹300 crore came from people's contribution. We managed to mobilise people and

turned the programme into a people's movement.

Every year, we will add 5,000 villages to the programme, and this will largely solve the water problems in drought-prone regions of the State. It will not only turn Maharashtra's negative agricultural growth into positive, but will also make our farmers prosperous. Jalpurush Rajendra Singh too recently praised it at Stockholm water conference, saying it is sure to transform lives.

“We have managed to store 24 TMC water that can bring around 6 lakh hectare of land under irrigation. Every year we will add 5,000 villages to the programme to solve water problems

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Q. Right to Services Act is an important milestone of the Government, if well implemented.

A. Yes, I am confident it will work. From Gram Panchayat to Municipal Corporations, all Government bodies will be brought under Right to Services (RTS). There are total 243 notified services of which only 46 services are online at the moment. Soon all the services will be under RTS. If their work is not done in a stipulated time frame, officers will be fined or suspended.

Q. Which is your dream project for Mumbai?

A. There can't be only one! We are going to develop a network of metros in Mumbai. When MMRDA presented a plan for Metro, it was for 2022. So, I personally met Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), understood the working of metro rails and made another plan with their help. We made Development Plan Report of two new metro lines in two months flat. They will be ready by 2019 and we are already working on DPRs of two more metros. We want at least one metro passing through each ward of Mumbai. Then, there is a coastal road, trans-harbour link which will turn Mumbai into a vibrant city with a house and employment for everyone.

Q. Talking of houses in Mumbai, the real estate rates have risen sharply. How will a common man get a house?

A. It is precisely the reason we are bringing a huge stock of affordable houses in the market—to lead to correction. We are designing a new housing policy, which we will declare soon.

Q. Are any plans on making Mumbai a finance hub?

We are planning to start an international financial service centre (IFC) in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) that will have an international arbitration centre, like the one in Singapore. At the moment, Singapore hosts most of the arbitration work of



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis greets US President Barack Obama in New Delhi on the occasion of Republic Day

ON CHIEF MINISTER'S RADAR

■ PUNE

- An elevated metro
- Development Plan of Pune ready, awaiting a DCR.

■ NASHIK

- Nashik-Pune four-lane road underway
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train via Nashik

■ NAGPUR

- A new metro
- IIM & Ayurvedic university
- MIHAN project
- Mumbai-Nagpur bullet train
- A textile hub in Amravati, near Nagpur

■ KONKAN

- Land acquisition process near completion for a sea-world project
- Five-star hotel on MIDC land
- First mango-processing plant by Jain Group
- Improving connectivity via ports under Sagarmala project

■ NORTH MAHARASHTRA

- National Institute of Architecture and Design in Aurangabad
- An industrial cluster at Shendra-Bidkin: several small clusters in Parbhani, Beed and Aurangabad

which 50 per cent comes from India and 60 per cent of that comes from Mumbai. We are taking the help of leading financial experts like Anshu Jain (former co-CEO of Deutsch Bank) and SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya; Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has agreed to help us.

Q. How is the business environment in Maharashtra?

A. Very positive. If you refer to business publications, you will see Maharashtra projected as the top investment destination in the country. As a result of my foreign visits, I have managed to bring in an investment of more than ₹66,000 crore and



“As a result of my foreign visits, I have managed to bring in an investment of more than ₹66,000 crore and employment for one lakh people. Today, global giants are vying to invest in India



are valued at ₹500 crore, which means we have to re-evaluate or even take a legal recourse. There is a need for transparent working of Kolhapur municipality. But we are confident that we will sail through the challenges and make Maharashtra toll-free, which was the dream of Late Gopinath Mundeji.

Q. As Home Minister, what decisions have you taken?

A. We have to stand by the people who work for society, and the police. I hiked the allowance of the cops if they work on holidays from ₹60 to ₹450-950 as per their grades. We have given them 4 FSI for their housing. Maharashtra is the first State in the country to have all police stations online. In one year, the rate of conviction has gone up to 42 per cent. I am sure, we will make Maharashtra Police No. 1 and, of course, the State too. **M**

—Compiled by **Mrudula Varaskar**



Pro-people, proactive

The first year of Government of Maharashtra looked at progress differently, ushering in smart decisions and new initiatives, says **Abhay Mokashi**



(Clockwise from top) Waghad Dam in Nashik, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis visits Gosikhurd Irrigation Project at Gondia, the Chief Minister and Rural Development Minister Pankaja Munde on a tour of drought-affected districts, the Chief Minister invites Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Kumbh Mela, the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar unveiled at Koyasan University, Japan and Mary Barra, CEO, GM, presents a car model to the Chief Minister

On the occasion of the completion of a year in office by the Government led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, while reflecting on the work of his Government, the Chief Minister would proudly speak of the Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan, which aims at permanently resolving the problems of the farmers.

Not satisfied at the spending of crores of rupees as aid to the farmers year after year or the writing off of their loans, which he felt benefited the banks rather than solving the problems of the farmers, Chief Minister conceptualised this scheme while

heading the CM Transformation Committee. The scheme focuses on development of watersheds, improvement of ground-water levels, and increasing the area under irrigation and green cover by planting of more trees. The scheme has been necessitated due to drought over the last several years in certain parts of the State and the continuous reduction in rainfall in some regions. Also, due to excessive tapping, the groundwater level in several talukas has receded by three to four metres.

The thrust of the scheme is to decentralise the water resources. Committees have been established in districts and divisions for the purpose. Though the State has estimated a total



(Clockwise from top) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with Schindler EB member Jürgen Tinggren, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders at State/Provincial banana plantation, Chief Minister at a public distribution centre and Rural Development Minister Pankaja Munde during a village tour

expense of ₹5,000 crore for the scheme, it has currently allocated ₹1,000 crore. Under the scheme, committees have been formed at district, divisions and Water Resource Ministry levels.

On the lines of the Prime Minister's Make in India, programme, Devendra Fadnavis has launched the Make in Maharashtra programme to invite foreign investment and to encourage foreign manufacturers to set up their manufacturing units in the State. The Chief Minister accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US and China, and has been successful in getting investment to the State, while more is in the pipeline. Nearly one lakh jobs are expected to be created due to this investment. Some of these projects are already underway.

The abolition of local body tax (LBT) has come as a great relief to commercial establishments, so is the case with the abolition of octroi and toll in certain areas. As a part of improvement of transport facilities in major cities, metro projects are being set up in Nagpur and Pune and it is being expanded in Mumbai. The State will soon see the setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Nagpur and the up-

The State Government has decided to spend ₹25,000 crore over the next five years on the welfare of farmers and to prevent cases of farmer suicides

gradation of the Grant Medical College and Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai on those lines.

The State took the initiative in buying the premises where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed while studying in London. The foundation stone for the memorial to Dr Ambedkar on the India United Mills (Indu Mills) has been laid by the Prime Minister.

The State is in grave need of energy and the Government has taken several steps to improve the power situation. It has laid emphasis on power generation through non-conventional sources and has framed a policy. The policy has set a target of achieving 14,400 MW of installed capacity in a period of five years and attracting an investment of ₹1 lakh crore.

According to the Chief Minister, the renewable energy



Leader's Forum in Beijing, Solapur-Pune Highway, wind power, Mumbai port,

farming in parched regions of Marathwada. To make them food secure, farmers in 14 districts are being offered wheat at ₹2/kg and rice at ₹3/kg. Under the scheme 34,000

metric tonnes of foodgrains are being distributed per month at the subsidised price to 68 lakh families of farmers', with each family getting an average of 20 to 35 kgs of foodgrains per month. The criterion for compensation to farmers for loss of crop due to natural calamity has been reduced from 50 per cent to 33 per cent. An amount of ₹2,100 crore has been received by 55 lakh beneficiary farmers under the agricultural insurance

scheme. A record 72 lakh farmers are expected to enroll themselves for the scheme for the kharif season of 2015. An amount of ₹415 crore has been distributed to 1.37 lakh farmers as drip irrigation subsidy. The Government has taken an initiative for distribution of crop loans and ₹34,100 has been distributed in the current financial year.

To help farmers affected by insufficient rains this year, an amount of ₹3,400 crore has been deposited in their bank accounts to compensate for crop losses

Minister for Rural Development Pankaja Munde has introduced the Amdaar Adarsh Gaon Yojana, on the lines of the scheme started by Prime Minister Modi, where every

Member of Parliament has to adopt a village for its development. The Government aims at developing 1000 villages in five years, under the scheme. A marketing agency in the name of Ahilyabai Holkar has been set up to strengthen women's micro-finance groups, with a provision of ₹200 crore.

The Industries Ministry, headed by Subhash Desai has simplified the procedure for setting up of new industries, by reducing the number of permissions from 67 to 37. In the last one year, 34 mega projects have been sanctioned, with a consolidated investment of ₹20,806 crore and creation of 20,204 jobs. Several changes are being brought about in the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry headed by Minister Girish Bapat. To avoid misuse, the ration cards are being linked to Aadhar card with bio-metric method. In the first phase, 4,500 shops in the State have this facility. The Ministry has decided to come down heavily on those pilfering the stocks of the PDS and selling it in the black market. Such persons would be brought to justice under MPDA Act. One of the major decisions of the Public Works Ministry led by Minister Chandrakant Dada Patil is the closure of 12 toll collection points and the exemption given to small vehicles, ST buses and school buses at 53 toll collection points.

In the first year, the State Government has taken a few noteworthy decisions, made new schemes and initiated new programmes. We now look forward to seeing these programmes deliver fruitful returns. **M**

policy is worth ₹4,156.43 crore and implementing this policy, the State will get electricity fee of ₹3,885 crore. Thus, expenditure on its implementation would be only ₹271.43 crore, he said while briefing the media on the policy. The policy aims at achieving the installed capacity of 7,500 MW solar energy, 5,000 MW of wind energy, 1,000 MW of bagasse-based co-generation, 400 MW small hydro, and 200 MW of industrial waste and 300 MW of agriculture waste-based products. The current installed capacity of renewable energy is 6,700 MW.

Looking at the situation of the farmers due to natural calamities, Minister for Revenue and Agriculture Eknath Khadse has enhanced the repayment period of their loan from three years to five years. The Government has decided to spend ₹25,000 crore, over the next five years, on the welfare of farmers and to prevent cases of suicide. According to the Minister, the crop insurance scheme introduced by the Government would benefit nearly 35 lakh farmers. An amount of ₹1,500 per hectare is also being offered for the cultivation of fodder.

A provision of ₹34,000 crore has been made for sustainable

“Positive schemes for farmers”

A multi-pronged approach to help develop the state of farmers through crop insurance, mKisan, soil health cards and others has been adopted. Maha Rajaswa Abhiyan is targeted at streamlining the Revenue Department. Welfare of Minorities also holds prime significance



EKNATH KHADSE

Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Earthquake Rehabilitation, Minorities Development and Wakf, Agriculture and Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, State Excise

I clearly remember the oath day, October 31, 2014. I was given the responsibility of all the important portfolios—agriculture, revenue, relief and rehabilitation, animal husbandry, dairy development, fisheries and minorities—that are close to the aspirations of common people. We created positive schemes for farmers’ welfare. Without waiting for Central assistance, we distributed funds to the tune of ₹4,000 crore and that too directly in the bank accounts of the farmers.

Drought has been declared in 14,708 villages whose paisewari is less than 50 per cent. School and college fee of students and electricity bill of agricultural pumps have been waived off in these villages and electricity connections of the affected farmers will not be disconnected. The farmers will

also get relaxation in land revenue and deployment of tankers, as per the requirement. The Government has also directed the district administration to immediately start centres to procure cotton, soybean and maize. The closed regional water supply schemes will be restarted for the benefit of these villages. Currently, some of these schemes are not in operation due to lack of payment of electricity bills. However, the divisional commissioners and district collectors have been asked to use the reserve fund to clear dues and restart their operations.

We started the ambitious Jalyukta Shivar Yojana to solve the problem of irrigation and bring the farmer out of drought situation. Consequently, the period of repayment of converted crop loan has been raised from three to five years. A decision has been taken for conversion of crop loans of district banks just as commercial banks inclusive of interest. Total interest on the converted loans for 2015-16 and interest at the rate of 6 per cent for next four years will be paid by the Government.

A mission has been undertaken to provide food security, healthcare services and educational assistance to farmers’ children. Vasantrao Naik Swabhiman Sheti Mission has been established to cater to specific needs of 14 suicide-affected districts. Under the Crop Insurance Scheme, around 55 lakh farmers have been benefitted with a compensation of ₹2,100 crore. A record participation of 72 lakh farmers has been registered for kharif 2015. The price of BT cotton packet was reduced by ₹100, which benefitted 50 lakh farmers.

Through the value chain development programme the marketing system will be developed through value chain system and with participation of private companies. To be implemented in an area of 2 lakh hectares, the programme will directly benefit 1.50 lakh farmers.

Special efforts have been made for successful implementation of drip irrigation. Grant to the tune of ₹415 crore has been disbursed to 1.37 lakh farmers. In addition, all the delayed bills have been paid even up to 2012-13 as well. The State stands numero uno in mKisan service, where a total of 13.30 lakh farmers had registered till October 2014. To accelerate perennial farming through balanced use of fertilisers, soil health cards have been distributed. Out of the targeted 10 lakh samples, 7.3 lakh samples have been taken for testing and 33,000 soil health cards have been distributed.

To overcome drought, a fodder-producing project using hydroponic technique has been sanctioned. A fodder-



(From top) Minister Eknath Khadse overseeing the works in the area of agriculture and irrigation and giving certificate to a minority student in the State

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- It has been decided to convert crop loans of district banks just as commercial banks inclusive of interest.
- Around 55 lakh farmers benefited by Crop Insurance Scheme with a compensation of ₹2,100 crore.
- For perennial farming through balanced use of fertilisers, soil health cards have been distributed. In case of mKisan, till date 48 lakh farmers have registered and are getting weather-based agricultural advisory and information about modern methods of agriculture.
- Maha Rajaswa Abhiyan on the anvil for people-oriented, efficient, speedier and transparent Revenue Department.
- The State Government provides maximum scholarship of ₹25,000 to minority students undergoing higher vocational education.

producing project based on hydroponic technique has been sanctioned ₹75 crore. We have taken the lead for helping the farmers through banks. Under this, during 2014-15, the farmers have been provided crop loans to the tune of ₹34,100 crore. Through the apex bank, under the investment loan, ₹612 crore has been sanctioned as fresh loans. District banks at Nagpur, Wardha and Buldhana have been sanctioned

Government assistance of ₹380 crore. Urban and rural non-agricultural cooperative credit societies have been allowed to provide agricultural loans to the extent of 20 per cent of the total loans disbursed. Decision has been taken for payment to sugarcane producers at the fair and remunerative price (FRP) rates. Decision for payment of compensation to the extent of five times for land acquisition has been taken. With the help of technology, 2,059 centres have been set up for providing up-to-date weather information at taluka level. At 500 villages, a path-breaking project of satellite technology based crop insurance survey is being implemented. Tourists have been facilitated to a great extent with the renovation of Taraporewala Aquarium. The other important decisions taken for Fisheries Department include implementing a

“Special efforts have been made for successful implementation of drip irrigation. Grant to the tune of ₹415 crore has been disbursed to 1.37 lakh farmers. All delayed bills have been paid up to 2012-13

”

token system where fish is unloaded and appointing private security guards. National Gokul Gram Yojana is being implemented under the National Animal Husbandry production project.

Farmer Janata Accident Insurance Scheme has been started for providing financial benefit to farmers and their families in case of accidents. Maha Rajaswa Abhiyan will be implemented for more people-oriented, efficient, speedier and transparent Revenue Department. Camps will be organised for distribution of various certificates, implementing extended satisfaction scheme, taking final decision on semi-judicial matters and settling them before December 2016. Change Adalat organised at circle headquarters, and E-changes to be made available in every village by March 2016.

Many decisions have been taken to bring minority communities into the mainstream. Efforts are being made to provide higher education to children from these communities and offer them employment. The State Government provides maximum scholarship of ₹25,000 to minority students undergoing higher vocational education. A scholarship of ₹5,000 is given for all courses after std. XII. Various districts of the State have been provided with girls hostels. Approval has been given for teaching Urdu as an optional subject at Marathi medium schools. Provision of ₹150 crore towards capital has been made during 2015-16 in comparison to ₹32 crore during 2014-15 for Maulana Azad Minorities Financial Development Corporation. **M**

—As told to Ajay Jadhav

“Most industry-friendly State”

The Government is working industriously to make the dream of Make in Maharashtra a reality. The success of State's manufacturing mission can only give wings to India's ambitious Make in India programme and establish the country as the best place to manufacture in the world



SUBHASH DESAI

Industries

It is commonly said that Maharashtra is the industrial development engine for the Nation. With Mumbai identified as the financial capital of India, Maharashtra has always been in the forefront in terms of business. Special efforts have been made by the Government during past one year to achieve balanced industrial development and accelerate employment generation through foreign direct investment (FDI) in the State. We have taken up the concept of Make in Maharashtra on the lines of Make in India, and to implement the same and bring industrial expansion to Maharashtra, we have taken various measures.

Under Make in Maharashtra, we have participated in various trade conferences across the globe and met potential investors. The major trade meetings include the 45th Annual Conference of World Economic Forum at Davos,

Switzerland, Hannover MESSE 2015 in Germany, and our delegations to China and Japan. The tours have brought huge investments to the State.

Out of the total FDI in India, 30 per cent comes to Maharashtra. The State has a 30 per cent share in total exports from India. State's contribution to India's GDP is 15 per cent. To take this to the next level, the State Government has taken the initiative of building an industry-friendly environment and make available skill-based employment. A major step has been in the direction of skill development. We are constantly striving to achieve ease of doing business in the State.

Easy and accelerated process is the mantra of industrial growth. We have achieved this acceleration for industrialisation by reducing the number of total permissions required for a company to begin operations. The number of permissions has come down to 37 from 67. On September 30, Maharashtra was honoured with five awards by Institute of Competitiveness and business newspaper *Mint* (Hindustan Times Group) in New Delhi. Maharashtra was declared numero uno in industrial sector for creation of industry-friendly environment in the country and implementation of innovative concepts.

The State attracted FDI on a large scale. To increase exports from Maharashtra, the General Motors facility at Talegaon in Pune will be expanded. GM's Talegaon plant has a capacity to manufacture 1,70,000 units annually and it has invested ₹4,300 crore to produce a range of cars, including the Beat, Sail and Spark. Employment for 1,000 persons has been made available through this project. Apart from this, an investment of around \$200 million has been made for manufacturing powerful engines for 1.6 lakh units. This capacity can go up to 3 lakh units of engine, making employment available to 1,400 persons.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Foxconn, an eminent manufacturer of digital electronics equipment, for investment in Maharashtra. The company will invest around ₹35,000 crore during the next five years. This will lead to 50,000 new employment opportunities. With GM's present investment and integrated investments from companies such as Mercedes, Volkswagen, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Motors, Skoda and others, Maharashtra is now a strong base of vehicle manufacturing sector.

This year, Maharashtra participated in global industrial meet, Hannover MESSE 2015. During the meet, Bosch agreed to impart training at all Industrial Training Institutes in Maharashtra and offer jobs to trained youth. Bosch, a



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- During the year, 34 mega projects have been approved, and through these projects, an investment of ₹20,803 crore and employment for 20,204 persons have been proposed.
- An MoU has been signed with General Motors, a world leader in automobile sector. Under this, General Motors will make an additional investment of ₹6,400 crore in the State.
- For investors ready to invest more than ₹100 crore, permissions are being provided through a portal called Maitri.
- Information technology and IT-related Services Policy 2015 has been announced. The expected investment in the IT sector is around ₹50,000 crore and the target for employment generation is 10 lakh.
- With industrial and financial MoUs signed with Japan, there will be a flow of investments in Maharashtra.

German company, manufactures implements for engineering industries. It has plants at Nashik and Pune. American multinational, Cisco, into networking, has offered help for the Smart City Project. Microsoft too has launched two of its data centres in Mumbai and Pune. These two are out of the total three planned by the company in India. The data centres will be useful from the point of view of cyber safety. Digital services are essential for making Mumbai more advanced, and the data centres will help the objective.

To provide all permissions to set up an industry within a month, an empowered group of officers has been appointed by the State Government. Information technology and IT-related Services Policy 2015 has been announced. The expected investment in the IT sector is around ₹50,000 crore and the target for employment generation is 10 lakh.

To accelerate small industries and ease business, an important decision has been taken to modify the Factories Act 1948. This will provide freedom from Inspector Raj benefiting around 14,300 industries, and boost employment

potential, which is presently tagged at 1.9 lakh. With industrial and financial MoUs signed with Japan, there will be a flow of investments in Maharashtra. A huge number of MoUs have been signed for motor vehicle parts, food processing and pharmaceuticals.

As the proposed Mumbai–Ahmedabad bullet train will

move via Nashik, the pace of development in north Maharashtra will increase. Due to this, many companies have expressed desire to invest in the State, which will give rise to major industries, foster small industries and help employment generation. While giving boost to large industries, the State has paid special attention to small industries and is providing land, units, infrastructure and has raised venture capital of ₹200 crore, and rejuvenating the closed small industries.

To make the dream of Make in India a reality, it is important that Make in Maharashtra becomes successful. For past one year, we have been striving to attract industries to invest in Maharashtra and expand industries in backward

“To accelerate small industries and ease business, a decision has been taken to modify the Factories Act 1948. This will provide freedom from Inspector Raj, benefiting around 14,300 industries

”

areas of the State. I wait for the day when these initiatives take shape and bear fruits. The unemployed youth of the State will then have their hands full of job opportunities. **M**

—As told to **Kashibai Thorat**



(From left) Minister Subhash Desai speaks at Maharashtra–Michigan Global Business Meet and signs an MoU with Minister, Trade and Investment, UK, Lord Ian Livingston

“We must **coexist** with forests”

The Forests Department has looked at conservation of forests in the State and developing them to reach the status of international tourist destinations, while Finance has taken measures for Government employees and armed personnel serving the State



SUDHIR MUNGANTIWAR

Finance and Planning, Forests



We are completing one year of governance in Maharashtra. As Minister of Finance and Planning and Forests, I have taken many important decisions under the aegis of my departments. To begin with, I will talk about the steps taken for forests.

The farmers in the State have to always struggle against wildlife. Considering this, the Forests Department has taken a historical decision for increasing compensation from ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh in case of loss of human life and from ₹7,000 to ₹15,000 in case of an injury in man-animal conflicts. It has been decided to double the compensation for loss of agricultural crop and horticulture due to wildlife.

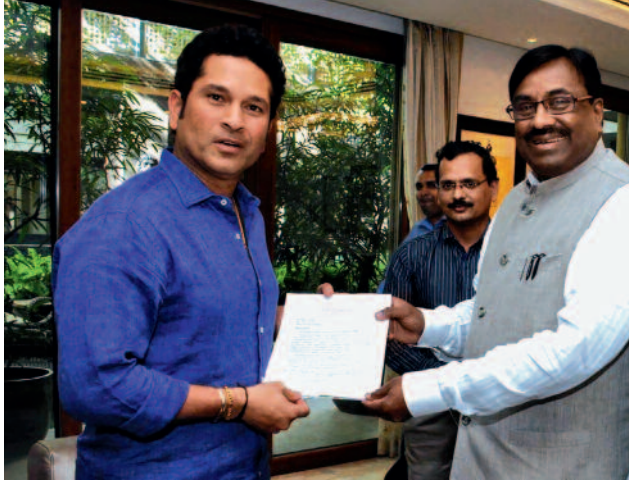
There is an attempt to spread awareness among people for conservation of forests and wildlife with the help of film actors and sportspersons. Wildlife Week (October 1-7) was

observed in the august presence of State's Tiger Ambassador and senior actor Amitabh Bachchan at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali. On Independence Day, 6 lakh trees were planted at 30,000 Government schools across the State. On the occasion of World Tiger Day, an exhibition was organised in Mantralaya which received an overwhelming response. This will definitely help in Tiger protection and creating awareness among people.

A decision was taken to establish a Bamboo Research and Training Centre at Chichpalli in Chandrapur to carry out scientific plantation of bamboo and provide training for its industrial use. Funds to the tune of ₹11.22 crore were made available for the same. Concession was given on bamboo royalty to Burud workers to encourage them for self-employment. This concession will be limited to ₹1,500 bamboo per year per family. All prohibitory orders on plantation and transport of bamboo, except two species, have been taken back. The Forest Training Institute at Chandrapur has been upgraded to Forest Academy and given autonomy. There is a decision to run the Deccan Odyssey up to Tadoba Sanctuary. To promote tourism in and around Nagpur, create employment opportunities and preserve endangered species, the work in Gorewada zoo of international standard is in progress. It is proposed to make Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Project and Sanjay Gandhi National Park international forest tourist sites like Masai Mara.

A decision has been taken to start a rescue centre for leopards at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The State becomes first in the country to have a State butterfly, Blue Mormon. At the first meeting of the reconstituted Wildlife Committee, a decision was taken to increase the number of sanctuaries. The proposals include Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (16.91 sq. km), extended Karnala Bird Sanctuary (6.854 sq.km.), Toranmal Conservation Reserve (91.52 sq. km) and Anjaneri Conservation Reserve (5.69 sq. km).

A decision has been taken to establish Maharashtra State Zoo Authority on the lines of Central Zoo Authority of India. The State Wildlife Committee has taken a decision to establish an independent Maharashtra Wildlife Development Fund for preservation and conservation of wildlife. There is a decision to establish Maharashtra State Nature Tourism Development Corporation to protect biodiversity in the forests. A decision has been taken to establish Uttamrao Patil Forest Park at every district through Social Forestry Department. These gardens will include forestry, biodiversity and nature conservation and



(From top) Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar with State's Tiger Ambassador, Amitabh Bachchan and ambassador for Harit Sena, Sachin Tendulkar

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

■ FINANCE

- Family pension for the dependent parents in case of death of their only child serving in the State service.
- State pension along with Union pension for retired armed personnel who worked for the State.
- Widow of a deceased Government servant eligible for family pension even after remarriage.
- Special transport allowance for deaf and mute staff.

■ FORESTS

- Enhancement in compensation for loss of life in a wild animal attack, from ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh.
- Blue Mormon is the new State butterfly.
- Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Jana Vana Vikas Yojana
- Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan appointed Tiger Ambassador. Sportsman Sachin Tendulkar becomes ambassador for Harit Sena.
- Leopard safari has been set up at Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Project at Chandrapur.
- A decision has been taken to establish Special Tiger Protection Force for Navegaon-Nagzira and Melghat Tiger Projects.

plantation of local species of flora and fauna.

It has also been decided to make hills on both sides of major roads green. The move will facilitate soil and water conservation, improve the natural beauty of the area and create employment opportunities. The Government has taken a decision for tree plantation on both sides of major roads, canals and railway tracks. Decision has been taken for implementation of biodiversity management programme at water holes and lakes in non-forest areas and establishment of Maharashtra State Bamboo Development Corporation to encourage bamboo and bamboo-based small industries.

A decision has been taken to implement Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Jan Van Vikas Yojana for increasing green cover outside wildlife sanctuaries through public participation,

management of tree wealth, and implementing schemes of various departments in an integrated manner. A decision has been taken to establish Special Tiger Protection Force for Navegaon-Nagzira and Melghat Tiger Projects. A circular has been issued to make easier the hunting of animals (like boar and Rohi) dangerous to agricultural crops.

Maharashtra Public Services Assurance Act has been implemented with the department making available 10 online services. Mangrove Conservation Pratishthan has been established for protection of mangroves. Under

finance, an important decision was taken to publish a white paper on the present economic condition of the State to present a status to the people of Maharashtra. The State will provide State pension for the retired ex-army jawans who served the State. This will be different from their pension from the Centre. It has been decided to give family pension to the dependent parents in case of the death of their only child serving Government of Maharashtra.

Decisions have been taken for raising maximum limit of home loan for State Government employees from present 50 times to 200 times and increase in dearness allowance by 7 per cent from July 9, 2014. The Group Insurance for Group C and D staff with State Government has been increased. With emphasis on speedier governance and transparency, we have taken many decisions in the interest of the people. I am confident that the Government will always be ahead in the continuation of excellent decisions from Finance and Planning, and Forests. **M**

—As told to **Pawan Rathod**

“A safe, fast and **comfortable** ride”

By taking services far and to inaccessible areas, the State Transport Department has proved the maxim ‘ST at every village’ come true. Induction of new buses into the fleet, reservation of seats for women in buses and shared rickshaw are some of the initiatives taken



DIWAKAR RAOTE

Transport

while he is given training license. The implementation of the same has started. For women safety and convenience, we have reserved the front seat in share a cab for them. A shared rickshaw and prepaid rickshaw service has been launched at Kalyan city from June 1 to curb traffic jams and pollution, save fuel and bring the benefits of these to the passengers and administration. For this travel, passengers have to pay 20 per cent more than the meter charge and the service provider has to pay ₹5 as charge per trip. The service provider maintains a photograph of the rickshaw driver and passenger and the rickshaw number on computer. This service aims to bring more safety to women travelling late nights.

An eco-friendly fuel, ethanol helps reduction of pollution. Permission has been granted for ethanol ST buses at Nagpur Municipal Corporation. An online appointment system to get permanent license has been launched to enable people appear for the process at their convenient time. A new Regional Transport Office has been started at Borivali, Mumbai. This is especially convenient to people from Dahisar and Borivali and facilitates the daily travel for work for around 3 lakh private and 50,000 vehicle owners. An ultramodern, automatic vehicle inspection and testing centre—given 5 acres—has been started at Nashik. Managed by ARAI, a Centre-appointed institute for coordination, it will reduce accidents through modern, accurate, detailed and automatic fitness-testing facilities.

Highway accidents pose a huge challenge and it is necessary

As Minister of Transport, I have taken many effective decisions during the past year for safe, fast and comfortable travel of people. An important decision has been to provide 10 per cent of the 17.5 per cent travel tax to Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) as capital funds contribution for modernisation of ST depots and basic infrastructure. The amount of travel tax concession is lesser in value than Travel Scheme value and hence it does not totally compensate Travel Scheme value. Hence, a decision was taken to provide funds to the tune of ₹352 crore to the MSRTC for workers' contract for FY 2000-2004 and 2004-2008.

Use of helmet is essential for safety of two-wheeler drivers. As it requires awareness, we took a decision that transport offices get a bond from a two-wheeler licensee for using helmet



Minister Diwakar Raote takes an auto ride in the city



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- 10 per cent of the 17.5 per cent travel tax to the MSRTC to be used for modernisation of depots and basic infrastructure.
- For women safety and convenience, the front seat of share a cab is being reserved for them.
- SMS reservation for ST buses on mobiles; announcements on LED TV started at 80 bus depots; annual card concession improved and made available for a family of four.
- Renewal of 1,40,065 auto rickshaw permits that have lapsed or cancelled.
- 70 Shivneri buses to be bought.
- One lakh new auto rickshaw permits to be issued through lottery system to bring employment opportunities to youth.



The State will see 500 new semi-luxury buses in 2015-16

to establish driving license test centres through public-private partnership. The transport department has given topmost priority to the safety of school students. A mobile app to locate appropriate school bus stop has been developed. Presently, the app is being used on experimental basis in Pune. Soon the app will be used throughout the State. The app will help in monitoring school buses, their drivers, bus routes, bus numbers, mobile numbers of bus drivers, mobile numbers of school bus safety committee members, etc. A committee under the chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge has been appointed to go into the recommendations of Hakim Committee on auto rickshaw-taxi fares and decide a revised tariff. The number of auto rickshaw permits that have lapsed or cancelled is 1,40,065. We have made a decision to renew these permits and to issue 1 lakh new permits through lottery system. The GPS/GRPS installation will be compulsory for these vehicles and certified residence proof will be compulsory to get a new permit.

The Cabinet has approved three new rail routes being implemented with State contribution as per revised estimates of the projects. One of these projects is Ahmednagar-Beed-Parali Vajinath for which the revised estimate is ₹2,826 crore, while for Vadsa-Desaiganj-Gadchiroli, the revised estimate is ₹470 crore. Half of the amount for these projects will come from the State. Project Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded for which the

revised amount is ₹2,500 crore, ₹1,000 crore share will be from the State. The total estimated cost of all the three projects is ₹5,796 crore, and State's contribution is ₹2,648 crore. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Ministry of Railways for setting up of a partnership company, Railway Basic Infrastructures to achieve speedy implementation of delayed projects.

The MSRTC implemented SMS reservation on mobiles from December 15, 2014. To make fresh room facilities for long-distance passengers, a policy for hotel/motel has been launched. In AC Shivneri buses, ten seats have been reserved for women commuters from August 29, 2015. Fifteen lakh smart cards for passengers travelling on concessions have been distributed. LED TV announcements at 80 bus depots have been started.

Annual card concession has been improved and made available for a family of four. With the exception of AC services, on payment of ₹500, a family will receive 10 per cent concession on ST buses for a year.

During Kumbh Mela this year, the MSRTC added 3,000 buses to Nashik Depot for the convenience of devotees. Two hundred new vehicles were given to the depot for inter-city transport. During 2015-16, it has been planned to press 500 new semi-luxury buses into service in the State; 36 new buses have already entered the fleet; 244 buses will be given to all the 122 talukas. The ultramodern Shivneri bus service for passengers travelling between Mumbai-Pune will purchase 70 buses. Out of these, 20 Volvo vehicles have already entered the fleet. Two of these buses will be

“During 2015-16, there are plans to press 500 new semi-luxury buses into service; 36 new buses have already entered the fleet; 244 buses will be given to all the 122 talukas. Shivneri bus services will purchase 70 buses

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placed for international tourism destination, Ajanta-Verul. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have set standards for passenger vehicles. The standards have been implemented as Code of Practice for Bus Body Design & Application (AIS 052). On the golden jubilee celebration of ASRTU (Association of State Road Transport Undertakings) Institute, the MSRTC won two awards. The institute relates to all ST bodies in India and awards best state-run services in the country. This year, the MSRTC has received Best Diesel Saving Award.

I have resolved to provide safe, fast and comfortable transport system to the people of Maharashtra. The action so far speaks of our future journey. We would continue to make it further enjoyable. **M**

—As told to **Pawan Rathod**

“Education **must** be coherent”

With a view that today's students will build the nation tomorrow, focus on students has been driving Ministry's major decisions in past one year. To keep India growing, it is important to bring in periodical changes in every faculty of education



VINOD TAWDE

School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, Higher and Technical Education, Medical Education, Marathi Bhasha, Cultural Affairs

Education is said to be the need of the day, but I believe that it has to be coherent with the day. With this in view, periodical changes are necessary to be carried out in every faculty of education. Not to stretch the wallet of the parent unduly with fees, we have enacted a legislation that will be implemented rigorously. While implementing the regulating fees Act, the institutes charging exorbitant fees will be brought under control. I would emphasise that the ordinance brought by the State Government is not against the institutes, but in the interest of students and education.

Speaking about the Department, I would say that today's students will build the Nation of tomorrow. Therefore, the State expenditure on education is an investment in the

future. We have taken a decision to conduct a reexamination of the students that failed in standard X. When a student fails, one's entire academic year is wasted. In the re-examination held in July for the students who failed the March 2015 examination, 57,517 students cleared the examination in July and were able to save their year. Considering the provisions of the RTE Act, we have taken a decision to hold pre-secondary scholarship examination in fifth standard instead of fourth, and secondary scholarship examination in eighth standard instead of seventh.

It is important to reduce the burden of school bags and focus on qualitative and skilled education. As a Minister for School Education, I would be taking total care that the childhood of students is not lost. From the current academic year, the student will have to carry less weight to the school. In other initiatives, a comprehensive survey is being conducted to look at out-of-school students. Relocated students will be provided an Education Guarantee Card, so that they can continue education at a school in the new place.

Today, Indian sportspersons are performing well at various global sports events. To ensure that these students receive opportunities to prepare for 2020 Olympics, I am going to make efforts for an independent funding. To encourage the sport Govinda (human tower), it has been declared an adventure sport and guiding principles have been laid with safety instructions. To encourage tribal students with inherent sports talents, tribal sports competitions have been given the status of State-level competitions. The participants in these competitions will be given extra 25 marks and will be eligible for 5 per cent reservation in Government services.

As Minister for Higher and Technical Education, I have taken an important decision to have a combined CET. Now the CET for State engineering, pharmacy and medical education courses from academic session 2016-17 will be one, i.e. MHT-CET. This CET will be based on the curriculum of 12th standard State Board of Education, which will benefit students and help them score better.

As per guiding principles issued by University Grants Commission, all non-agricultural universities will implement choice-based credit system in a phased manner. Union Ministry of Human Resources Development has sanctioned an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Nagpur. The first batch has already begun at the institute. The Indian Institute of Information Technology established



(From top) Minister for School Education Vinod Tawde weighs a school bag and interacts with students during his trips to schools in Mumbai

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Implementation of National Higher Education Mission in Maharashtra for strengthening quality and foundation of higher education.
- Marathi Language Conservation Fortnight held so far from May 1-15 will now be held from January 1-15.
- As per recommendations of the Youth policy, Vivekananda Yuva Mitra/Yuvati Mitra Scheme will be implemented at 358 talukas in the State and 24 wards of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.
- Wrestling training centres will be established at ten locations in Maharashtra to create more and more Hind Kesari in the State.
- The State Government to observe October 15 as Prerana Wachak Din from this year.

through PPP will start the session from academic year 2016-17. A capacity development programme was arranged in Delhi for around 200 students from Maharashtra who had qualified for interview at the UPSC Examination.

A single-window approach for pre-production permissions for film and TV serial producers to help them make films fast is being developed. The entire process will soon be online. The permissions will be granted five to seven days before the shooting begins. The film city will be developed as a tourist centre along with film production. Similarly, Goregaon Film City and Bollywood Museum will be developed together as a PPP project. A list of best locations for film shooting will be prepared soon and put up online.

“CET for State engineering, pharmacy and medical education courses from academic session 2016-17 will be one, i.e. MHT-CET. This CET will be based on the curriculum of 12th standard State Board of Education, which will benefit students

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On the lines of National School of Drama, Maharashtra School of Drama will be established at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film city, Goregaon. An honorarium to old artists from the areas of drama and arts has been launched with payments made online. The State Government has taken a decision to compile information on all folk arts in the written and film format for preservation. This information will be made available through a website like Wikipedia through public participation.

A policy on Marathi language development is being made. Maharashtra Official Language Bill has been passed by the Legislature. Marathi Language Consultative Committee has placed the development policy for Marathi before the Government. It was insisted that Marathi Language

Department at universities should take an initiative. There are around 127 Acts with the word 'Bombay' on the website of Mumbai High Court. Out of these, the word has been replaced with Maharashtra or Mumbai in 33 Acts. The action for other Acts is being taken.

The Government has approved some of the sub-committees to go into improvements in science and technology dictionaries. The United Kingdom has a town of books called Hay-on-Wye. A study is being carried out on whether a similar village for books could be created in Maharashtra near Mahabaleshwar or at Malgund in Konkan with some of the literary personalities visiting it during vacation or holidays. There would be many programmes organised to celebrate reading culture. **M**

—As told to Varsha Phadke

“Enhance **environment** quality”

Environment is not just important for development, but our survival. It is important to enhance its quality, encourage the use of cloth and paper bags, curtail air, water and noise pollution and promote environment-friendly initiatives throughout



RAMDAS KADAM

Environment

In my political career it was the second time that I took oath as a Minister in the lawns of the Legislative Assembly. The date was December 5, 2014. Post the swearing-in ceremony, I was handed over the responsibility of Department of Environment. As Minister for Environment, I consider protection of environment as my prime responsibility. It is my duty to create awareness about environment protection and conservation to stall its deterioration. Therefore, I have decided to enhance public participation and make this department more people-friendly.

Considering the fluctuations in earth's temperatures and abrupt rise, the Department of Environment is implementing programmes to conserve the environment. The objective is to enhance the quality of environment, address its issues, spread awareness and create a supportive environment for

taking constructive decisions. The department is also exercising caution with respect to certain terms and instructions, while granting permission to projects so as to maintain environmental balance.

I will strive towards empowerment of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). The Department of Environment keeps a vigil on air, noise and water pollution and controls the same. The Government of India has laid down certain Acts and the implementation of these Acts is being done through MPCB. To control air, noise and water pollution, firm steps will be taken in the coming years.

To control the use of plastic bags, we have decided to prohibit manufacture and distribution of plastic bags with less than 50 micron thickness. This is being implemented in the State. Plastic creates serious environmental issues, as it does not degenerate. We are, therefore, encouraging people to use other options such as paper and cloth bags. We would encourage women self-help groups and unemployed youth to manufacture these eco-friendly options.

I have been touring the State to create awareness about environment. The tours also bring to my knowledge environmental issues at every location. One such example has been of Waldhuni river. We took immediate action against those responsible for polluting the river. Similarly, during an inspection of Mithi river, I came to know about the encroachments and unauthorised industries around it. We addressed the issue by initiating laying down of a separate pipeline for waste water, which after processing will be released into the sea.

Application for environmental permission can now be made online. Information about the meetings on these permissions, decisions, agenda, waiting list, timetable of the meetings and instructions is given on websites www.environmentalclearance.nic.in and www.maharashtra.gov.in. We have decided to honour those making valuable contribution in the field of environment protection and have felicitated people with Vasundhara Awards on World Environment Day. The Government also took proactive steps to make this year's Simhashta Kumbh Mela a grand, green affair.

To curb water pollution, all buildings and complexes liable for environmental permission would be required to construct and use wastewater treatment systems. This will reduce the burden on the city wastewater treatment facility and prohibit pollution from new projects.

Considering the paucity of water, it has been made



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Application for environmental permission can now be made online. The information about meetings, decisions taken, agenda, waiting list and timetable to be available on websites.
- It is compulsory for new projects to process solid waste and arrange for disposal. Priority to projects adhering and implementing green building guiding principles.
- To reduce carbon footprint, it is mandatory for all new constructions and industrial projects to use solar or wind energy to fulfil 25 per cent of their energy needs.
- Boards will be placed on river banks to show information on pollution of the river. Quality of river water, pollution levels and proportion of pollutants will be updated every 15 days
- The State would honour people who have made valuable contribution in the field of environment protection.

mandatory to process wastewater, and recycle and reuse it. Experiments are being carried out with rainwater harvesting. To reduce water pollution by factories, it will be mandatory to install zero effluent system. Industrial units will not get permissions unless they do the needful. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has been instructed to efficiently run community effluent treatment systems at industrial estates.

The Mumbai coastal road project will help reduce the burden of traffic in the city. Currently, 60 per cent of Mumbai's traffic moves on Western Express Highway. With the coastal road in place, there will be reduction in traffic on the Western Express Highway. The 34-km-long coastal road, from Nariman Point to Kandivali, includes 91 ha of green area. It will be built at a cost of around ₹10,000 crore and completed in next five years. The project will have gardens and

playgrounds. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has given in-principle approval to the monument of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Arabian Sea in Mumbai. For implementing the provisions of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. According to Rule 2C, the cities with a Commissioner of Police or Deputy Commissioner of Police and in other areas, concerned

“To reduce carbon footprint, it is mandatory for all new constructions and industrial projects to use solar or wind energy to fulfil 25 per cent of their energy needs. Experiments with rainwater harvesting are on

”

Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police have been appointed as noise pollution authority. Also, it has been made mandatory for all Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils and Zilla Parishads to earmark silence zones and put up relevant boards. Similarly, hoardings announcing air quality have been placed at many locations in the city.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been made mandatory for every company. I have instructed all District Collectors to issue notices to companies not adhering to the CSR norms. We are going to lay emphasis on eco-friendly development in every district from the two per cent tax raised from the companies. **M**

—As told to **Varsha Phadke**



Minister for Environment Ramdas Kadam during his tour to check the cleanliness of Mithi River in Mumbai

“Affordable housing at the core”

Steps for eradication of slums from the State and to develop and rehabilitate them, resolving labour issues and conservation of mineral wealth are a few decisions taken in past one year. A key decision is on making affordable housing available to all on a large scale in next five years



PRAKASH MEHTA

Housing, Mining and Labour

The State Government is completing one year under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. As a Minister for Housing, Mines and Labour, I have taken many decisions on affordable homes, slum rehabilitation, housing, labour welfare and preservation and conservation of mineral wealth of the State.

Maharashtra is the fastest urbanising State in the country. The main aim of the Government, therefore, is to take care of population growth and fulfill people's aspirations of development. Under Government of India's Homes for All 2022, we have aimed at building around 19 lakh houses in next five years. A decision has been taken to provide funding to the extent of ₹500 crore from Slum Rehabilitation Authority Funds to Shivshahi Rehabilitation Project for affordable homes. The core of our housing plan is

to provide affordable homes to maginal income group and middle income group. The focus is on building houses through Government, private and public participation and taking care of demand–supply gap in housing in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra.

In case of Mumbai, affordable housing can be made available on a huge scale through redevelopment of slums and old buildings and Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority (MHADA) houses. At other places in the State, the Government would like to integrate and streamline all Government housing schemes to offer affordable homes.

Maharashtra Government has also looked at slum development keenly. Earlier, there were many issues of documentation for slum residents. We have taken a decision to accept one or two proofs. The need for an affidavit on stamp paper has given way to acceptance of an affidavit on plain paper. Slum dwellers at hill sides are always in danger



The State Government would like to integrate and streamline all Government housing



State Government plans to build around 19 lakh houses in next five years



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Under Government of India's Homes for All 2022, the State to have around 19 lakh houses in next five years.
- Fund to the tune of ₹500 crore from Slum Rehabilitation Authority Funds to move to Shivshahi Rehabilitation Project for affordable homes.
- Documentation of slum residents made simpler: Now, no need of an affidavit on stamp paper. A wall 9 m high to be built around slums in hilly areas for safety from landslides
- All information about the Labour Department has been made available on the website www.mahakamgar.gov.in
- Under certain strict conditions, women will be permitted to work in night shifts, benefitting 1.58 lakh working women in the State. Integrated self-certified return system has also been implemented for boiler systems.

of landslides. To secure them, a security wall 9 m height has been prescribed. The State Government has released an additional grant of ₹200 crore for completing a project under JNNURM. To bring transparency to MHADA, a booklet has been published and a vigilance squad has been set up.

Maharashtra Government has launched Make in Maharashtra. To attract maximum investment to the State, ease of doing business has also been started. Under this, improvements have been made in many Labour Act provisions. According to the Shops and Establishments Act, it was necessary for establishments to close for one day in a week. Now these shops can remain open on all seven days of the week. The establishments will, however, have to give a

weekly off to the staff. Information about the Labour Department has been made available on the website www.mahakamgar.gov.in

“A decision has been taken to provide funding to the extent of ₹500 crore from Slum Rehabilitation Authority Funds to Shivshahi Rehabilitation Project for affordable homes

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Certain modifications have been proposed in the Factories Act. Due to these, 14,300 factories will move out of the provisions of the Act. Under certain strict conditions, women will be permitted to work in night shifts, benefitting 1.58 lakh working women in the State.

Integrated self-certified return system has also been implemented for boiler systems, according to Government Resolution dated June 24, 2015 for certain types of boilers. This will be beneficial for sugar factories and large industries. Private establishments are allowed to inspect boilers in the State. To provide paid leave for labour, the matter is under consideration to bring the number of days to 90 from 240 at present.

Conservation of mineral wealth and development of mines through scientific methods are some of the matters related to the Mining Department. A proposal under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 for setting up of a Mineral Development Foundation in every district is being placed before the Cabinet.

By taking steps for a slum-free State and to develop and rehabilitate the people living there, making available a rightful home to everyone and strengthening them, resolving labour issues, and conservation of mineral wealth in the State are few of the many important decisions taken by my departments during the past one year. **M**

—As told to **Jayshree Kolhe**



schemes to offer affordable homes

“Roads **lead** to development”

A good road network is important for socio-economic development of a region. A strong organisation of the Government, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation can play a pivotal role in bringing this kind of development to the State in years to come



EKNATH SHINDE

Public Works (Public Undertakings)

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has an important place in the development of Maharashtra. Whether we consider Mumbai-Pune Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway, 55 flyovers in Mumbai or Bandra-Worli Sea Link, the projects of MSRDC stand as glorious chapters in State's long and continuing journey to progress and economic prosperity. Now, under my leadership, MSRDC has planned an ambitious project for quality road network across the State. My aim is all-round development of Maharashtra and I would like to share this with the readers of *Maharashtra Ahead* on the occasion of completion of one year of the Government.

Whether it is agricultural development or expansion of industrial network, anything can be achieved if there is a strong network of roads. If GDP of India has to go beyond 10 per

cent, it is essential to take agriculture development to 4 per cent. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Minister for Industries Subhash Desai have been making efforts to bring more industries to Maharashtra and are meeting with industrialists from many countries. The main requirements of these industries are electricity, water and roads. We are comfortably self-sufficient as far as electricity is concerned. Although the status of water is not so good due to constant drought condition, the industries in Maharashtra generally do not suffer due to water. The challenge thus is of roads. For this, we are committed to pace up the work of MSRDC. The Chief Minister also supports strengthening of the corporation.

MSRDC can be a growth engine for the type of develop-



Minister for Public Works (Public Undertakings), Eknath Shinde at the inauguration of



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- MSRDC is working on projects such as Mumbai-Nagpur communication expressway, capacity expansion of Mumbai-Pune expressway, tunnel way to reach Borivali from Thane within 10 minutes and Pune ring road.
- There are plans to establish smart cities on the lands belonging to MSRDC near Mumbai-Pune Expressway to create funds. The same model can be considered for Mumbai-Nagpur communication highway as an option.
- Work on Wadal-Thane Metro will begin end of the year and work on preparing a project draft for Kalyan-Bhiwandi-Thane metro line is in progress.
- In case of toll, no fee will be placed on public; 12 toll posts closed permanently and 53 toll posts partly

ment I have borne in my mind for Maharashtra. We are planning many new and ambitious projects. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has also offered many projects to MSRDC on behalf of Government of India. A memorandum of understanding is to be signed very soon between MSRDC and National Highway Authority of India.

Through the mantra of work, work and more work, the MSRDC has proved its quality, capacity and utility. The

organisation had completed Mumbai-Pune Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway in record time. The project is in excellent condition even today. My demand, therefore, is that MSRDC should get an opportunity to implement large road projects like the expressway.

Currently, MSRDC is working on ambitious projects such as Mumbai-Nagpur Communication Expressway, capacity expansion of Mumbai-Pune expressway, tunnel way to reach Borivali from Thane within 10 minutes and Pune ring road. We have also proposed integrated road development projects for some major cities. Emphasis will be laid on building a network of roads all over. Not only highways, but MSRDC has plans for creation of a grid of roads with internal roads, highway and roads connecting with each other. The work of construction of

iconic buildings for sales tax office at Mazgaon and Yerawada is in progress. We have placed a proposal before the Chief Minister for construction of administrative buildings for newly built Palghar district jointly with Public Works Department.

All these projects will not have a dearth of funds. Today, many financial institutions are eager to provide loans at lean rates for basic infrastructure projects. Japanese finance company, JAICA has come forward to finance projects in Maharashtra. We are also exploring the possibility of raising funds through bonds. Our demand for granting the status of special planning authority to MSRDC has also been accepted by the Chief Minister. Now, it is planned to establish smart cities on the lands

“Through the mantra of work, work and more work, the MSRDC has proved its quality, capacity and utility. The organisation had completed Mumbai-Pune Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway in record time

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belonging to MSRDC near Mumbai-Pune Expressway to create funds. The same model can be considered for Mumbai-Nagpur communication highway as an option.

In case of toll, no fee will be placed on the public. We have closed 12 toll posts permanently and 53 toll posts partly, bringing a relief to people. Instructions have been issued for developing water resources in every village. The efforts are towards empowering farmers take up two crops in a year. If eco-tourism is developed in Thane, there could be some serene entertainment spots, employment for local youth and a boost to the economy. There is a huge scope for water transport in Thane and the work on Kalyan-Thane-Mumbai water transport will soon take off. I am sure that the Government will definitely turn the opportunity of roads into gold. **M**

—As told to **Dr. Sambhaji Khara and Sanjay Orke**



Setu Suvidha Kendra

“Building a **new** Maharashtra”

Setting up huge road projects, making the State free from toll and rejuvenating cooperatives are the main priorities of the Government. The other major decisions taken in past one year include implementation of e-tendering for public works, FRP for sugarcane farmers and reconstituting the handloom sector



CHANDRAKANT DADA PATIL

Co-operation, Marketing and Textiles, Public Works
(Excluding Public Undertakings)

I am striving to attend to my responsibilities as Minister of departments that are closely connected with the people, Cooperation, Marketing, Textiles and Public Works Department (PWD). After completing one year as a Minister, I am happy to see fulfillment of the aspirations of common people and the work carried out by departments.

The PWD has allocated funds worth ₹3,700 crore in the budget this year. Seventy per cent of this fund has been made available to the Department within first month of the year. To strengthen the road network in the State, ₹1,365 crore worth of State roads, ₹882 crore of major district roads, ₹700 crore under NABARD Loan Assistance Scheme, ₹1,718 crore under Central Roads Fund scheme and ₹25 crore under railway flyover bridges—totalling ₹4,690 crore—have been budgeted.

Four laning of Mumbai-Goa National Highway has been given priority and the work for this road is in full swing. We have resolved to create a network of 3,36,000 km of roads in the State, as per 20-year road development plans published by the State Government for 2001-2021. A Pothole-free Roads mission will be implemented for the State and district roads. SCADA system will be used to improve the quality of roads, structural audit of the bridges constructed 30 years back for repair and maintenance, and including terms for repairs for the next five years in all large works have been planned.

An ambitious decision has been taken to completely close 12 out of 91 toll posts in the State from May 31, 2015. A decision has been taken to provide toll freedom for car, jeep, ST and school buses at 53 toll posts out of 79 under PWD. The PWD completed 43 works of ring road, bridge on river Godavari, railway overbridge, circuit house and hospitals at Nashik and Trimbakeshwar as part of the Simhastha Kumbh Mela at an expenditure of ₹658 crore.

To bring transparency in tendering process, E-tendering was implemented for all works above ₹3 lakh and batch mixing process and Scada for works above ₹4 crore.

In keeping with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a decision has been taken to establish toilets on both the sides of all National and State Highways. Planning for clean drinking water and facilitation centre for travellers is also in place. The PWD is using modern technology while carrying out the works of construction, re-construction and building highways. Efforts are being made with Centre for joining district headquarters



(From left) Minister Chandrakant Dada Patil hands over financial assistance to a farmer



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- 12 out of 91 toll posts in the State closed down from May 31, 2015.
- A network of 3,36,000 km of roads will be created in the State as per 20-year road development plans. Four laning of Mumbai-Goa National Highway is in full swing
- Permission has been granted for 46 facilitation centres to be carrying on rental basis for produce such as onion, banana, pomegranate, orange, grapes, flowers, vegetables and others.
- First Mega Textile Park to be set up at Nandgaon Peth in Amravati district. Similarly, eight mega textile parks at Yavatmal, Buldhana, Nanded, Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Parbhani and Jalgaon will be developed.
- Financial assistance to five backward cooperative spinning mills, out of which four are from Marathwada region.

with four-lane roads and widening of National Highways.

The Government is making concerted efforts for proliferation of the network of cooperation. We have taken a decision to make available long-term loans with interest grant for payment of FRP amounts to the farmers supplying sugarcane to factories. The interest for the first year will be paid by the Centre and for the next four years, by the State. This will make available a loan of ₹2,000 crore to the sugar factories without interest. Those factories that do not fit in this Central Government scheme due to availing crushing season taken by them in 2014-15, a decision has been taken to give interest grant for five years to make long-term loans available facilitating payment of FRP to the farmers supplying sugarcane to the sugar factory.

To cancel the registration of the non-working cooperative societies, a survey of 2.40 lakh registered cooperative societies is being carried out. The Government has made available margin money of ₹50 crore to Cotton Marketing Federation for working with Cotton Corporation of India and has implemented cotton purchase on a loan guaranteed by the Government. Government guarantee for ₹1,000 crore has

been provided for cotton harvest 2014-15 for taking a loan against hypothecation. Farmers are provided 25 per cent reservation for placing their produce in the godowns and 50 per cent concession in transport charges. All the goods at the Corporation (around ₹3,000 crore) have been insured.

Permission has been granted for 46 facilitation centres

to be carrying on rental basis for produce such as onion, banana, pomegranate, orange, grapes, flowers, vegetables and others under integrated process development programme. As five backward cooperative spinning mills have been taken for financial assistance, around 2,000 persons will get employment. Four out of these are in Marathwada and have been given ₹46.77 crore as capital.

For handlooms, the Union Ministry of Textile has announced renovation, improvement and reconstitution of industries for more than ₹3,000 crore with direct participation of the State. For the 20 per cent share of the Government, a fund of ₹2.35 crore has been disbursed. As per decision of the

“Priority is being given to development of textile industries. Textile park in Vidarbha and a textile hub at Nandgaon Peth in Amravati have been established. Textile Parks will be established in cotton-producing areas now

”

Government, the non-working mills of National Textile Corporation at Mumbai will be shifted to Nandgaon Peth of Amravati district. This will create huge employment opportunities in this area. During last one year, 250 such projects with an investment of ₹1,394.29 crore have been started in the area which created jobs for 9,798 youth. **M**

—As told to **Vilas Bodke**



family, interacts with people to understand their requirements and talks to the media

“On the way to a **healthy** State”

Multiple health-related schemes and modern instruments are in place to assist healthcare services in rural, remote areas. Providing psychological counselling to farmers in distress and launch of Operation Kayapalat and Arogyavadhini programme are effective steps taken



DR. DEEPAK SAWANT

Public Health and Family Welfare

Operation Kayapalat has been launched to provide quality health services to common people and to bring a positive attitude in the staff towards healthcare delivery and encourage use of modern technology.

To ensure that farmers do not take extreme steps such as suicide, expert psychiatrists are to be roped in to counsel them. To reach the farmers, help will be sought from Asha workers. The project will be implemented in Osmanabad and Yavatmal on an experimental basis. A helpline, Manobal with number 104 has been started. Considering the high demand of blood required in the State and to ensure it is supplied at affordable rates, the rate for a blood bag has been reduced from ₹1,050 to ₹850. To reduce the risks of spread of diseases through blood transfusion, a modern Nucleic Acid test system will be started at Government blood banks. Modern mobile blood collection units set up at Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri will help patients in these districts.

Under Melghat Mother Child Health Programme, pregnant women are being tracked. In areas where there is no connectivity, the mother undergoes a check-up at the nearest primary health centre with the help of ambulance service on a fixed day decided as per the tracking data. For the programme, a special nodal officer of the level of district health officer has been appointed for Melghat. To reduce infant mortality rate and infanticide, Bal Aarogya Abhiyan is also being implemented in the State. Vatsalya ambulance

Maharashtra is known as a healthy State in the country. Through the medium of *Maharashtra Ahead*, I would like to convey to the people of the State that in the coming years, a variety of schemes for better healthcare of the citizens would be on way to completion. I am committed to provide quality healthcare to the citizens and there is a lot to be done going forward.

In order that people from rural and remote areas need not travel to the city for healthcare services, that they get treated at the local level and their health issues be taken care of by expert doctors in the city, we have started the Shiv Arogya Telemedicine Scheme. The service was launched at the arduous and hilly terrain of Melghat. Ultramodern health services will be provided to the patients in Nandurbar, Wada, Mokhada, Jawhar and remote areas of Nashik district.



(From left) Minister Dr. Deepak Sawant at an eye-checking camp organised under the



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Under Shiv Arogya Telemedicine Scheme, services of expert doctors based in Mumbai are made available free of cost to people in inaccessible areas via teleconferencing.
- Operation Kayapalat launched to provide quality health services to common man, making primary health centres, sub-district hospitals, rural hospitals and district hospitals equipped with modern instrument and experts.
- Arogyavardhini programme launched for MDR/XDR TB cases, where patients given diet rich in nutrients thrice a day
- Government to strengthen health services in 14 districts affected by farmer suicides.
- Remedial measures to be undertaken to provide perennial health services under the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana. Rates for a blood bag reduced from ₹1050 to ₹850.

service for safe transport of mother and child to the hospital and back has been started at 29 locations in Maharashtra. Also, Janani Suraksha Yojana and Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana are being implemented effectively.

Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, eye-checking camps were organised. The camps were successful with a total of 15,189 cataract surgeries done. The State also has in place Arogyavardhini programme for MDR/XDR TB cases, where patients are provided diet rich in nutrients thrice a day. The initiative is being implemented in Mumbai through National Health Mission, Mumbai Municipal Corporation and Industrial Development Bank of India. The programme will be implemented throughout the State.

A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Subhash Salunkhe has been assigned the task of preparing an action plan for prevention of epidemics apart from drafting proposals for Emergency Services Act and Maharashtra Emergency Health Act. To control the expenses at private laboratories, efforts are being made to bring the test charges under control.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed

with Wipro and GE Healthcare for starting radiology imaging diagnostic centres at Government hospitals. Under this, a radiology imaging diagnostic centre has been started on public-private partnership (PPP) basis at the district hospital in Aundh, Pune. Radiology imaging diagnostic centres will be set up at other places too. Cancer hospitals in Vidarbha, Marathwada and North Maharashtra have been proposed. It is proposed to include knee replacement surgery under the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana. A decision has been taken to issue disability certificate through Software for Assessment of Disability (SADM) to people with disabilities. The action for draft proposal for Maharashtra

Health Safety and Spitting Prohibition Act, 2015 has been started. The sentence for spitting in public places proposed under the Act includes a fine of ₹1,000 and social service for one day at a public hospital. A large number of camps have been held in inaccessible areas for healthcare check-up for women and children where experts from reputed hospitals participated.

Around 5 lakh incidents have been handled through the emergency medical service ambulances (helpline number 108). Efforts are on to make a service similar to motorbike ambulances in London available in Mumbai and other metro cities. An MoU has been signed with the United Kingdom in this regard. Through Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya

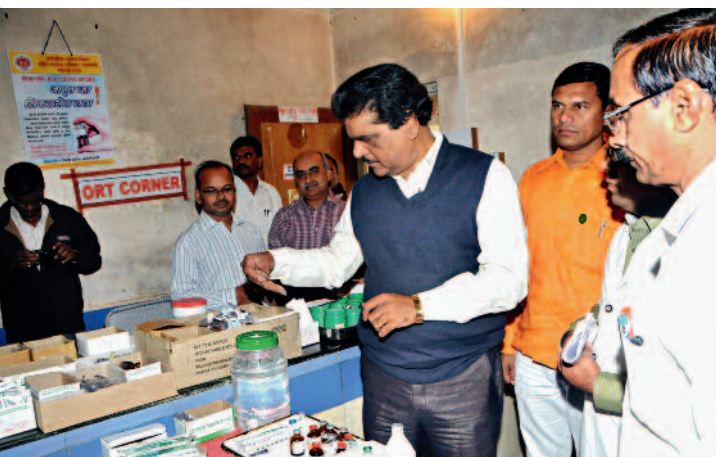
“Operation Kayapalat has been launched to provide quality health services to common man, making primary health centres, sub-district hospitals, rural hospitals and district hospitals equipped with modern instrument and experts

”

Yojana, 50 lakh surgeries have been carried out.

Leprosy Eradication Mission and Leprosy Fortnight was organised at taluka level between January 30 and February 28. Besides this, Leprosy Identification and Treatment Mission will be implemented in for the coming year. Under National Adolescent Health Mission, a counselling helpline (1800 233 2688) has been launched. The Government has taken a decision to name GNM Nursing School at Vitthal Sayanna district hospital, Thane after late nurse Aruna Shanbaug. Many important decisions such as filling up vacant posts in health services and strengthening health institutions have been taken during the last one year. Many excellent schemes have been started and initiatives implemented. However, a lot has to be done in order to bestow a healthy life on every citizen of the State. **M**

—As told to **Ajay Jadhav**



National Blindness Control Programme and inspecting drugs at a Government hospital

“Change **begins** with villages”

The State aims at bringing drought freedom to 25,000 villages and transforming 1,000 villages during the next five years, while targeting women and child welfare. Other key steps include rural housing, developing the market for products made by women self-help groups and ensuring implementation of MGNREGA



SMT. PANKAJA MUNDE

Rural Development and Water Conservation, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Women and Child Development

In its mission to relieve Maharashtra from the drought situation, State Government launched Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. The programme registered huge success in its first year, as various villages actively participated in it. The innovative programme was drafted combining all 14 schemes being implemented in the State for water conservation and water supply. For 2015, a total of 6,202 villages were selected for the scheme and a total of 1,18,499 works was complete till August 2015. Some years back, innovative Vaidyanath Pattern for water conservation was implemented by me in Parli and Ambejogai talukas of Beed district. Water conservation was done in villages with the help of minor-big dams, nalla deepening and rejuvenating rivers. This helped in combating drought situation successfully. Taking inspiration from the success of this pattern after taking up charge of water

conservation department, I chalked our Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. I am happy that for the last one year through people's participation Abhiyan has been implemented successfully giving solace to people.

Allocating ₹1,000 crore to the flagship scheme, the State Government aims to bring drought freedom to 25,000 villages within next five years. The Rural Development Department has resolved for comprehensive development of villages in the State. It has been planned to make all Gram Panchayats, Smart Gram Panchayats. Villages are being made accessible by Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a State scheme based on Centre's Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). A provision for ₹350 crore has been made for the project. PMGSY has also been implemented effectively, and the target of new rural roads in Maharashtra is placed at 2,629 km. A provision of ₹1,572 crore has been made for this.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is also being implemented in Maharashtra. All MPs from the State have chosen the villages and work has begun in 70 villages. Based on this programme is State's Amdar Adarsh Gram Yojana, which has made every Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council member to choose a village for development. The State Government has resolved to transform 1,000 villages during the next five years.

The Government of Maharashtra has passed the Right to Services Act. In its first stage, 13 services essential at village level will be made available. The Gram Panchayats located



Minister Pankaja Munde on a tour of the State as part of Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan



Minister Pankaja Munde being welcomed by a girl and with school children

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- An allocation of ₹1,000 crore has been made to Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan that aims to bring freedom from drought to 25,000 villages during next five years.
- Drought relief work is priority and done under MGNREGA.
- All Gram Panchayats in the State will go smart with technology. A definite policy is being drafted through preparation of plans for development of Gram Panchayats. Sangram Project has been launched to increase the use of IT.
- Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will build rural roads in the State.
- Under Right to Services Act, 13 services essential at village level will be made available.
- Women and child development measures to ensure children are not malnourished and women are empowered.

in tribal areas under Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act have been delegated powers for sales and disposal of natural resources such as *tendu* leaves and bamboo within the village area. Rural housing (Gharkul Yojana) is another important area where Rural Development Department has a pivotal role to play. During the last year, more than 1 lakh homeless people have been given homes. Homeless and below poverty line families will be provided financial assistance up to ₹50,000 to purchase land under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gharkul Khaderi Arthsahayya Yojana.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) is being implemented effectively. For 2015-16, the Centre has sanctioned a labour budget of 10.87 crore man-days with a provision of

₹2,448 crore. Plans are afoot to construct 44,000 irrigation wells through MGNREGA within next two years.

Department of Women and Child Development has taken measures to ensure there is no malnourished child in the State and women are empowered, safe and healthy. Pregnant and lactating women and children are being looked after. Road use tax fund (RUTF), patio garden and other innovative schemes are being implemented on an experimental basis. Ten districts from Maharashtra, namely Aurangabad, Beed, Osmanabad, Jalna, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Buldhana, Washim, Kolhapur and Sangli have been chosen for Centre's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme. Maharashtra has launched a similar State scheme, Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree and allocated ₹200 crore for its implementation. The Government will provide financial incentives to the families on birth of a girl child, her education and skill development.

“For 2015-16, the Centre has sanctioned a labour budget of 10.87 crore man-days with a provision of ₹2,448 crore. It has been planned to construct 44,000 irrigation wells through MGNREGA

”

(toll free), active 24x7, has been activated for women in distress. For conveying important programmes and decisions to the Anganwadi staff, an SMS Gateway service has been started. The work for Aadhar registration by Anganwadi and children centre has begun for children in the age group of 0-6. A decision has been taken to conduct a third-party audit for all children's homes in the State. Audit of 990 children homes is in the final stage.

An MoU has been signed with I-Care Institute of Medical Sciences and Research to train women to become drivers. The programme had trained 200 women till September. Another MoU has been signed with the Department of Technical Education. **M**

—As told to **Irshad Bagwan**

“Committed to **tribal** welfare”

The State Government stresses on the need to develop tribal communities and bring them into the mainstream. Measures such as area and individual development in the field of education and nutrition are in place for their holistic development and to build an inclusive and progressive Maharashtra



VISHNU SAVRA

Tribal Development

In past one year, we have made concerted efforts and taken many important decisions related to social, academic and economic development of State's tribal community. With a view to bring the community into the mainstream, we have taken many important schemes and initiatives. Given that I represent the tribal community, I am aware of the challenges of the community and fully understand their pangs. I take this opportunity to assure that we are fully committed to the welfare of the tribal communities.

During the period before and after Independence, many concepts were put in place for the development of tribals. The Government planned and implemented many remedial measures for their socio-economic as well as academic development. In the beginning, emphasis was laid on area development. However, the tribal communities outside the

said area got neglected. Thereafter, a comprehensive development plan was put in place that focussed not only on development of the area, but also on individuals by appointing a Commissioner of tribal welfare as well as setting up Maharashtra State Tribal Development Corporation and Tribal Research and Training Institute. With the help of these, various schemes have been undertaken and are being implemented effectively.

Ashram Shala (boarding schools for the tribals) cluster scheme is being implemented for the sake of education of the community. The other initiatives include Government hostels for boys and girls for higher education—free education for students in various reputed English medium schools, Government of India scholarships and golden jubilee scholarships. We are making available at least five per cent funds to Gram Panchayats to develop villages and *padas* (hamlets) in scheduled areas under PESA even as other schemes are being implemented successfully.

Aiming for a clean India by 2019, the Government of India announced Swachh Bharat Abhiyan last year. To achieve its targets, a programme titled WASH, i.e., Water Sanitation and Hygiene under Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya (SBSV) or Clean India: Clean Schools has been started at the Ashram Shalas run by the Department of Tribal Development.

With a view that tribals from remote and hilly areas gain from social, economic and educational development, efforts are being made to ensure that they receive quality education and a balanced nutritional diet. This will help them be a part of the mainstream and receive benefits of development, resulting in a change in their standard of living. The Government has undertaken innovative schemes in this area. One such initiative is India's first central kitchen at Mundegaon in Nashik. A similar kitchen will soon be established at Kambalgaon in Palghar district.

The State Government has sanctioned a grant for 25,000 students from Scheduled Tribes to receive education from std. I to std. XII at renowned English medium, residential schools. Under Right to Education Act, it has been decided to establish a school management committee (SMC) at every Ashram Shala. The committee will generate awareness by educating the locals about the rights of children and duties of the State Government, local self-government, school, parents and guardians. It will exert control so that non-teaching work is not assigned to



Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Ministers Girish Mahajan and Vishnu Savra at the inauguration of India's first central kitchen at Mundegaon in Nashik



basis. Training of 125 tribal students is on at this regional sports complex since June 2015. Training in areas of archery, athletics, wrestling, kabaddi and shooting has begun.

While initiating welfare measures for tribal communities and bringing them to the mainstream, we have drafted many ambitious schemes in order to totally transform their lives. With respect to economic development of tribal farmers, craftsmen and landless labourers, we will be implementing various schemes through the medium of Tribal Development Commissioner, Tribal Development Corporation and Tribal Research and Training Institute.

“The State Government has sanctioned a grant for 25,000 students from Scheduled Tribes to receive education from Class 1 to 12 at English Medium residential schools. A school management committee will be established at every Ashram Shala

”

These will include setting up small processing centres within the Tribal Sub-Plan areas for agricultural produce and minor forest produce, sales of products through the Corporation, purchase and sale of forest produce within Tribal Sub areas under PESA Act and Forest Rights Act (FRA) through Gram Sabha, granting maximum price for agricultural produce to farmers by implementing optional purchase scheme in areas other than monopoly purchase scheme and supply of the produce to Government Ashram Shalas.

The Department will put in place sales management for agricultural and minor forest produce with a view to stop economic exploitation of tribal farmers and craftsmen, acquisition of land and godowns of the old and loss-making cooperative societies and construct-

ing new ones. Then, there will be establishment of *haat* (purchase centre) and godowns for minor forest produce for purchasing these items at minimum assured rates, implementing the sales process for foodgrains and forest produce purchased by National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) at the national level through e-tendering system so that highest rates can be achieved. Plans are afoot to set up honeybee farms and self-employment training with the help of Khadi Gramudhyog Mandal, establishment of a unit at Masheli in Gadchiroli for purchase of honey at Centre-assured rates and others.

These are the important schemes undertaken by Government of Maharashtra for holistic development of tribal communities. We are going to strive towards making these schemes successful in the coming years. **M**

—As told to **Kashibai Thorat**

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Ashram Shala Cluster Scheme is being implemented for the education of the tribal community.
- A programme designated WASH, i.e. water, sanitation and hygiene under Clean India: Clean Schools has been started at Ashram Shalas run by the Department of Tribal Development.
- In sports, Eklavya Kreedha and Udyojakata Prabodhini has been established at Nashik. Training in archery, athletics, wrestling, kabaddi and shooting has begun.
- The first central kitchen has been established at Mundegaon village in Nashik district. A similar kitchen will be established at Kambalgaon in Palghar district.
- There is a provision of a package scheme to tribal farmers with the approval of the Government for agricultural implements and seeds.

teachers, while monitoring the daily working of the school, review of students' progress, controlling study facilities and making efforts for enhancing the quality of education, following up the duties of the teachers and weeding out the issues facing them. The committee aims at bringing out-of-school students into mainstream education system, implementing remedial measures on issues such as absenteeism and drop-outs, and ensures 100 per cent enrollment of students and 100 per cent attendance in school are constantly maintained. It will also try to bring out-of-school and handicapped students into the mainstream education system and make efforts so that they remain at school. This will lead to an effective and better control at the school level.

In the area of sports, Eklavya Sports and Entrepreneurship Academy has been established at Nashik on a temporary

“Transparency, **the way** ahead”

Computerisation will lead to smooth delivery of foodgrains and curb malpractices. Using modern technology to the maximum, the efforts are focused on making the system transparent. Steps have been taken to ensure customers get products at fixed MRP and curtail malpractices



GIRISH BAPAT

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

As a Minister looking after public distribution in Maharashtra, I have initiated many programmes after taking charge. There have been steps to ensure that there are no complaints from citizens. Part of these positive steps is distribution of foodgrains via Aadhaar-based biometric system. The programme is being implemented at fair price shops across the State. In phase one, one taluka from each district has been selected. The system will run at 4,300 shops. Henceforth, tablets will be used. Mobile terminal technology will be used for biometric identification. Using modern technology to the maximum, the efforts are focused on making public distribution system (PDS) transparent.

Another important step is to link ration cards to Aadhaar number. The work has started in all the districts and till now 2.75 crore cards have been linked. We have also decided to

improve the distribution system. A computerised chain management system across stages—from Food Corporation of India to State warehouses—will be implemented. The path-breaking project has started from Raigad and Sindhudurg, and will be launched in other districts by March 2016.

Kerosene is being distributed at the rate of 2 litres per person, 3 litres for two persons and 4 litres for three or more persons. The transfer of license for retail kerosene and fair price shop after the death of license holder has been streamlined and made comprehensive. This will bring relief to kerosene retailers and fair price shop license holders.

Food and Civil Supplies Department has taken many decisions beneficial to the farmers. The most important of them is to provide benefits of foodgrains as per National Food Security Scheme. Farmers in 14 drought-affected districts of the State, namely Aurangabad, Jalna, Nanded, Beed, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Latur, Hingoli, Amravati, Washim, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal and Wardha are covered by the scheme. Under the scheme, the 68 lakh saffron ration card holders are being provided wheat at ₹2 and rice at ₹3 per kg at 5 kg per person per month basis. This is a relief to the farmers in the drought-affected areas, and I am happy that the scheme is being handled by the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

For the benefit of the farmers, the paddy procured under minimum support price for harvest 2014-15, we will be paying ₹30 higher than the rates prescribed by the Government of India. The purchased paddy will be paid with an encourage-



Officials brief Minister Girish Bapat on the new biometric PDS



Minister Girish Bapat at the launch of National Food Security Scheme



We have started making flat measurement rules for those buying a house. The work is in final stage and will control the monopoly of the builders. We have also taken up the work of strengthening laboratories at Metrology Department and taken steps for making available locations for these laboratories in districts. This will bring the adulterators to justice as the samples will be available faster.

The Government is committed to ensure that customers get every product at MRP. However, it has come to our notice that retailers charge more than the MRP. A complaint cell has been established at 022-2288 6666 to register grievances. The customers can also lodge a complaint on Whatsapp

number 98696 91666. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Maharashtra is the first State in India to have started issuing online licenses for production and sale of drugs. This computerised system has also earned a national award.

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) ensures that the drugs available in the market are free from adulteration. Thirty teams were established and inspections were carried out in two phases, leading to goods worth ₹133 crore seized in 70 incidents last year.

We have made MRP compulsory on drugs and taken action against drug dealers selling drugs without any license through e-commerce websites. Blood banks are instructed to make available blood bags at charges fixed for the same.

“Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Maharashtra is the first State in India to have started issuing online licenses for production and sale of drugs. The FDA ensures that drugs available in the market are free from adulteration

”

To make the youth quit *guthka* and *pan masala* addiction, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has decided to take stern steps like *Guthka Mukti Abhiyan*. The steps include one-year prohibition on manufacture, storage and sales of *guthka*, *pan masala*, *mawa*, *kharra* and others. During last one year, we have taken action against people selling *guthka*. A total of 3,858 inspections were carried out and 1,231 storages have been attached. Goods worth ₹13.15 crore have been confiscated.

Strict action is being taken against those involved in milk and cooking oil adulteration. During the past year, the work of Food and Civil Supplies and Food and Drugs Administration has become transparent and accelerated. We will continue to take decisions and implement them in the interest of the customers and common people. **M**

—As told to **Nandkumar Waghmare**

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Distribution of foodgrains is being done via Aadhar-based biometric system. In phase one, one taluka from each district has been selected. The system will run at 4,300 shops.
- A computerised chain management system across stages—from Food Corporation of India to State warehouses—will be implemented.
- To weed out black marketing of foodgrains, reforms in Maharashtra Prohibition of Dangerous Activities (MPDA) Act are being brought. Black marketing of ration is going to be a non-bailable offence.
- Food and Civil Supplies Department has implemented Centre's National Food Security Scheme in the State. Farmers in 14 drought-affected districts of the State have been covered by the scheme.

ment of ₹250 in addition to the Government of India rates. An amount of ₹74.21 crore has been paid for this. A decision has been taken to cancel the storage prohibition on pulses, cooking oil and cooking oil seeds.

The Government has taken an ambitious decision to purchase sugar from open market to supply to beneficiaries and Antyodaya Scheme under PDS. The sugar will be purchased through NCDEX SPOT Exchange Ltd. With this, the sugar purchase has become totally transparent, competitive and modern, and the sugar is available at lesser than market rate. Labour, transportation and other sundry will not have to be borne by the Government, saving ₹2 crore per month. I am happy to note that other states have also accepted this model.

The Government of India started DBTL PAHAL Scheme to provide gas cylinder to the poorest families in the country with a subsidy. As the subsidy is directly credited to the bank account, the customer is benefitted. Launched in Wardha and Amravati first, the scheme has been implemented in all districts and benefitted 1.67 crore customers out of 1.91 crore, bringing subsidy straight into their bank accounts. Till now 87.67 per cent people are getting the benefits and we expect to take DBTL PAHAL Scheme to the rest by March 2016.

“Prosperity through **irrigation**”

The Government plans to take stern steps for water management. Expanding the area under irrigation and linking rivers can make Maharashtra a water-sufficient State. The successful execution of the Kumbh Mela at Nashik-Trimbakeshwar this year is a feather in State's cap



GIRISH MAHAJAN

Water Resources and Khar Land

Although the receding rains have improved, the water levels at some of the dams in the State is not adequate. Therefore, it is important to plan water from now on. The Government has made up its mind to take stern steps for necessary water management. I am personally looking into the aspects of this management. On an area level, the gates of Kolhapur type weirs need to be opened and closed on the dot. For specific management, a rainy season planning programme has been undertaken as a movement. For successful implementation of the programme, instructions have been given to District Collector, Chief Executive Officer and officers of my Department after a review meeting at a regional level.

Apart from strengthening the department, a plan was made for projects to be accelerated and incomplete projects to be completed. In the backlog, all projects with more than 75 per cent investment done are taken up for completion. Accordingly, during 2015-16, a total of 39 projects, and during 2016-17, a total of 41 projects will be taken up for completion on priority. Of these incomplete projects, half will be completed with distribution system on first priority. Generally, the required private land for various projects is acquired by the concerned land acquisition institution under the present Land Acquisition Act. However, we have promulgated guiding principles for such institutions according to Government resolution dated May 12, 2015, so that they can go for direct purchase for land acquisition. This will accelerate land acquisition and result in completion of projects.

My efforts continue from the days of public life to see that the farmer should be happy and prosperous. Therefore, when I took oath as a Minister, there was a satisfaction on the opportunity to carry out some good work on one hand and being able to utilise this opportunity to the fullest on the other. I began to work keeping in mind on one hand the need for creation of confidence and sense of belonging in the minds of farmers, and on the other making appropriate use of every drop of water in the State. Through the medium of irrigation, I wanted to contribute to the total development of the State. I was aware of the huge challenges that lay ahead for me. Today, through the medium of *Maharashtra Ahead*, I have the opportunity to look back and account the year gone by.

Presently, Maharashtra is facing an issue of drought.



Minister Girish Mahajan inspects a site in Nashik ahead of the Kumbh Mela



Minister Girish Mahajan interacts with sages ahead of the Kumbh Mela

ACCOLADES ON THE SUCCESSFUL ORGANISATION OF MAHAPARVA

The year has been a memorable one to me. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis made me the Minister in-charge of the Kumbh Mela at Nashik-Trimbakeshwar. The Mela gave a boost to basic infrastructure in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar. Saints and sages expressed their satisfaction at organisation of the Mela.

Following the call for Swachh Bharat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Kumbh Mela this year was acknowledged as Harit Kumbh. Special attention was provided to sanitation. The devotees could experience a clean and beautiful face of the city. Special attention was given

to healthcare facilities. Kumbh Mela as an occasion has been responsible for creating a new global identity for Nashik city. I am confident that the mega event will help economic development in the region. The newly established basic infrastructure facilities will supplement the development.

Kumbh Mela has become a *kumbh* of faith, devotion, tourism and development. I would like to thank everyone who made this event successful. These include administration, elected representatives, saints and sages, officers, staff, executives from various organisations, media and citizens of Nashik and Trimbakeshwar. Due to your contribution, the mega event will be remembered as an example of excellent organisation.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- The gates of Kolhapur-type weirs need to be opened and closed on dot. For specific management, a rainy season planning programme has been undertaken as a movement.
- A special mission has been undertaken for renovation of old projects. At the same time, a decision has been taken for acceleration of Damanganga and Par-Tapi-Narmada river linking project for effective use of available water.
- Revised administrative approval given to 22 minor irrigation dams and khar land projects in February, and 28 minor irrigation dams in May this year.
- Transparency has given importance and speed to work. To make common people aware about the project, detailed information on a total of 403 projects under construction has been given on website to streamline the projects.



The powers for sanctioning orders for a work were so far held with the chairman of the corporation. Now these powers have been delegated on a regional basis. Through an effective control system, decentralisation of powers in case of tendering process has been done.

The Government decided to change the policy of amended administrative sanction, which was a huge obstacle in the acceleration of projects delayed for a long time. At the same time, considering the farmer as a focal point and with a view to provide benefits of the project to the farmers, the powers for amended administrative sanction for Vidarbha and Marathwada have been delegated to the concerned corporations.

“Irrigation not just relates to agriculture and drinking water, but also affects industries and cooperative sectors. To appropriately plan for development of the State, development of irrigation area is of utmost importance

”

A special mission has been undertaken for rejuvenation of old projects. A decision has been taken for acceleration of Damanganga and Par-Tapi-Narmada river linking project for effective use of available water. Revised administrative approval has been granted for survey and detection of mega recharge project in Tapi valley. I am confident that this will accelerate work on this project. In the first year of the Government, revised administrative approval were given to 22 minor irrigation dams and khar land projects in February 2015, and 28 minor irrigation dams in May 2015. The policy on making projects on efficient use of water by the corporate sector under their responsibility was announced by the Water Resource Department on April 10, 2015.

Transparency has given importance and speed to the work. To make common people aware about the projects, detailed information on a total of 403 projects under construction has been given on the website. Residents and public representatives will find it useful and it will help complete and streamline the project.

Irrigation not just relates to agriculture or drinking water, but also industries and cooperative sectors. To appropriately plan the development of the State, development of irrigated area is of utmost importance. In the light of this, we have emphasised on enhancing the efficiency of the department during the year. While looking back on how we started, we have also made positive changes to work effectively. Further journey is to be undertaken with a dream to achieve prosperous agriculture and make farmers rich with perennial and better irrigation. **M**

—As told to **Dr. Sambhaji Kharat and Sanjay Orke**

“Our focus is on **renewable** energy”

Maharashtra has gone aggressive on power generation through non-conventional sources of energy such as wind and solar power. The new power projects arriving in the State have been provided various facilities, while the projects lagging behind have been accelerated



CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE

Energy, New and Renewable Energy

Energy being the basic need for national development also has an important place in the basic infrastructure of the country. Considering the increasing demand for energy in Maharashtra in years to come, it is essential to generate sufficient power at lesser cost. We have, therefore, laid emphasis on development of non-conventional energy sources for electricity generation. A policy has been decided for producing 1,400 MW of power from non-conventional energy sources. We are encouraging youth to implement these projects with a condition that they will give a part of their profits for village development. The youth will, thus, support village development and shoulder social responsibilities.

The State Government has formulated the first comprehensive policy on renewable energy and has aimed to

produce 14,400 megawatt (MW) power through non-conventional sources. Maharashtra is aiming to achieve the target in next five years; beginning with the current 6,700 MW installed capacity of non-conventional power projects. These include wind energy projects for 5,000 MW, molasses and agro-residue based co-generation projects for 1,000 MW, mini hydroelectric projects for 400 MW, agro-generated residue based projects for 300 MW, industrial waste based projects for 200 MW and solar-based projects for 7,500 MW.

The State has many sources of new and renewable energy. Out of these, wind and solar sources coupled with molasses and others could be used for electricity generation. To accelerate distribution-related projects, the Department has announced the policy for non-conventional energy.

The Government of India has also announced a policy on production of electricity from new and renewable energy sources and set a target of extension for electricity production from these sources at 175 GW by 2022. This includes 100 GW of solar energy. The State had activated 6,155 MW capacity non-conventional energy projects till March 2014. The proposed target for the State is 14,400 MW.

Power generation projects arriving in the State with a bang have been provided various facilities. Six lines and six substations are being built for a 3,300 MW project from M/s Adani. The distribution system has been made available for a 1,350 MW centre of M/s Ratan India Power Limited. I am personally looking into the matters of Mahavitaran, which will bring noticeable positive changes soon.

When high-tension (HT) lines are laid by Government or private distribution companies through agricultural fields, there is a loss of standing crops and horticulture. It was proposed that farmers must be compensated for the space used by the towers. To save farmers from loss of land, permission to distribution companies has been granted to use monopole. On an experimental basis, 25 towers are being erected.

It is essential to provide 24x7 power supply to India's financial capital, Mumbai. The maximum demand of the metropolitan city is around 3,500 MW. Measures are being taken by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) and Tata Power to reduce the gap between demand and supply. MSEDCL has undertaken work for using higher capacity conductors in place of 220 KVA Kharghar-Kalwa and Borivali-Boisar lines. There



(From top) The targets set for wind and solar energy projects stand at 5,000 MW and 7,500 MW, respectively, in next five years

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- It has been decided to produce 1,400 MW of electrical energy from non-conventional energy sources.
- New electricity generation projects given various facilities.
- Over 27,000 Gram Panchayats can now register their electricity grievances.
- The consumers can register their electricity-related complaints on toll free numbers 1800-233-3435 and 1800-200-3435.
- Koradi plant to receive Nagpur city's recycled water from 130 MLD capacity Bhandewadi project.
- The capacity of power plants at Padgha, Kalwa, Babhaleshwar and Akola to be expanded at an estimated expenditure of ₹140 crore.
- The State has also planned 7,500 MW solar power generation through public-private partnerships.

should be emphasis on strengthening the MSEDCL system. We are expanding the capacity for Padgha, Kalwa, Babhaleshwar and Akola at an expenditure of ₹140 crore approx.

Government of India is implementing Green Energy Corridor project for large-scale electricity production and for strengthening existing systems. The State has been sanctioned 27 distribution lines at an expenditure of ₹361 crore. Sanction to the tune of ₹506 crore has been granted for relocation of transmission lines from the area of proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport. Some thermal electricity projects had been lagging behind. An action plan for the same was implemented and the projects were accelerated. Now most of them are active at full capacity.

“It is essential to provide 24x7 electricity supply to Mumbai. It requires around 3,500 MW. MSEDCL has undertaken work for using higher capacity conductors in place of 220 KVA Kharghar-Kalwa and Borivali-Boisar lines

”

Supply of coal from Chhattisgarh has helped mitigate the coal shortage faced by Koradi and Chandrapur plants. Koradi plant will now receive Nagpur city's recycled water from 130 MLD capacity Bhandewadi project. This is the first-of-its-kind arrangement. A consultant has been appointed to map the feasibility of using recycled water from Nanded city for Parli generation centre in a similar way. We are following up with the Centre for increased supply of fuel gas for a gas-based generation centre at Uran to enhance its production capacity. The State has also planned 7,500 MW solar power generation through public-private partnerships.

The most important point in the interest of the consumers was keeping the electricity rates in check. A time-bound programme has been undertaken to improve the efficiency of all electricity constituent companies and reduce expenses. Proper disposal of fly ash from thermal power plants is important from environment point of view. With a proper fly ash policy, nature can be conserved and employment for the youth can be generated.

Out of 29,609 Gram Panchayats, a total of 27,101 now have a complaint book for registering electricity grievances. A number of facilities have been made available to consumers. The consumers can register their complaints on toll free numbers 1800-233-3435 and 1800-200-3435. Under the Government of India Power System Development Fund, it has been planned to restart Dabhol project soon. **M**

—As told to **Jayshree Kolhe**

“We shall overcome drought”

Ensuring clean and pure drinking water to people, especially those in drought-affected districts of Maharashtra is State's first priority. The second mission is to make citizens realise the importance of sanitation and motivate them to establish the virtue in and around them



BABANRAO LONIKAR

Water Supply and Sanitation

The Government of Maharashtra has resolved to implement and achieve 'toilet at home and water at doorstep' maxim with a view to make entire Maharashtra clean and water surplus. The whole State is reeling under lack of drinking water as a result of inadequate rainfall. Due to the scarcity, Marathwada is in the shadow of drought. The State Government has stood firmly behind the drought-affected population and is committed to enhance the health of these people by making available clean and pure drinking water. Through my department, I am confident that we shall overcome the drought condition this year.

Maharashtra has effectively implemented across its districts the mega mission of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By achieving open defecation freedom (ODF) for a record 2,603 Gram

Panchayats, Maharashtra stands at No. 1 position in the country. A total of six talukas in the State, namely Devgad, Malvan, Gaganbawda, Jawali, Mahabaleshwar and Mulshi have attained ODF. The landmark is a result of the planned activities of the department over the past one year.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) keenly looks at building water supply, drainage, urban transport and other urban facilities. The project is launched to elevate standard of living in the cities through the said parameters. The project will be implemented in selected 500 cities in India. Out of these, 43 cities are from Maharashtra. The mission will grant fund to the extent of ₹50,000 crore from 2015-16 to 2019-20 across the entire Nation. Out of the 43 cities in Maharashtra, leaving the four A+, A and B Class cities, the implementing agency for the 39 cities will be Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP). The expanse and responsibilities of the Water Supply Department has increased with AMRUT, and I thank Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis for the same. I consider provision of pure water to every native of Maharashtra through various schemes as my duty.

There is delegation of decision-making powers. The power in case of tender acceptance of Rural Water Supply Scheme—up to ₹50 lakh—has been delegated to Gram Sabha. In case of ₹50 lakh to ₹7.5 crore, the power lies with Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad. Grants will be directly disbursed to MJP. The grant where repair-maintenance of Rural Water Supply Scheme is done by MJP, the grant will go directly from the Government to MJP. Third-party inspections have also been made mandatory. Government polytechnics, engineering colleges and ITIs have been allowed to carry out inspections for the Rural Water Supply Scheme. Under this, two-stage technical inspections have been made compulsory. We are confident that with these inspections, the Rural Water Supply Scheme will be completed as scheduled, without complaints and as per objective.

An important element of the Rural Water Supply Scheme is solar energy pumps. Solar Based Dual Pump Mini Water Supply Scheme is being implemented successfully in the State. Mauje Tumari Mendha in Chandrapur is an example. A similar scheme is of spring based mini tap water supply. In many remote hilly areas, natural spring water is available. People living near the spring can get drinking water after it is accumulated through a pipeline in a tank.

Water quality is also important. Under Centre's National



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- Maharashtra Golden Jubilee Rural Dalit Vasti Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme is being implemented successfully. Under this scheme SC, ST and Neo-buddhist families are being facilitated for individual taps and toilets.
- Solar Based Dual Pump Mini Water Supply Scheme is being successfully implemented in the State.
- GIS asset mapping of water supply scheme by the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Applications Centre (MRSAC)
- For inspection of heavy metals, an MoU has been signed with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur.
- Till May 2015, 69,94,401 (56 per cent) of families have been provided support to have individual toilet. The target for 2015-16 is to take the number to 17,43,264 families.

Rural Drinking Water Programme, during 2014-15, the State Government purchased 4,000 chemical test kits and 11.28 lakh field testing kits for testing biological parameters of water resources. These biological field kits will now be distributed to all Gram Panchayats, pre-primary Zilla Parishad schools/Tribal Ashram Shalas. Planning and implementation of the programme has been done at State, district, taluka and Gram Panchayat level. A coordination committee has been set up with Rural Development Department and Public Health Department. At present, 183 laboratories are carrying out inspection of biological and chemical constituents and TCL powder in drinking water. Maharashtra is doing excellent work under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The Nirmal Bharat

Abhiyan has been renamed as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Rural) by the Government of India on October 2, 2014. The programme has set October 2, 2019 as target for achieving total freedom from open defecation. To date, 9,878 Gram Panchayats and 11 talukas of the State have been honoured

with Government of India Nirmal Gram Award. Instructions have been issued for making available at least one independent public toilet each for ladies and gents in every Government office for use of visitors.

Maharashtra Golden Jubilee Rural Dalit Vasti Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme is being implemented successfully. Under this scheme SC, ST and Neo-buddhist families are being facilitated for individual taps and toilets. These are available with admissible grant of ₹4,000 for tap connection and ₹11,000 for construction of a toilet per family. **M**

—As told to **Rahul Bhalerao**

“A mobile app, Jal Suraksha has been developed to supply clean drinking water in villages. Emphasis is on development of villages through total sanitation. Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhta Abhiyan is also being implemented



Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation, Babanrao Lonikar (right) takes part in a cleanliness drive

“We must take **everyone** along”

Looking at the deprived and weaker sections of society, the Department is launching many initiatives for their welfare and skill development. The year 2015 being the 125th birth anniversary year of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, it would be observed as Equality and Social Justice Year



RAJKUMAR BADOLE

Social Justice and Special Assistance

Social Justice Department is an important element of the Government. As it serves the lowest strata of society, I feel honoured that the responsibility has come to me. The Government is implementing many schemes for the deprived and weaker sections, and the Department is saddled with the work of taking these schemes to them.

We have implemented many schemes during the last one year. The most important decision has been that of purchasing the home where Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed while he studied at London. The decision was taken by the State Government in October last year after assuming power, and the task was completed by the Department of Social justice. The purchase is done and we have the keys to the home. This can be called the most coveted achievement of the Department and an occasion to celebrate

for the followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and those who value his thoughts. We are going to create an international-quality memorial at this place. The move is supported by a decision to start a chair in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at London School of Economics.

Year 2015 is the year of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. To remember the epitome that gave direction to backward classes, the Department will celebrate the year as Equality and Social Justice Year with many programmes to be organised throughout the year. A fund of ₹125 crore has been allocated for this. The first programme, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Social Week, was organised from April 8 and 14, 2015 at Gateway of India, Mumbai.

During the ensuing year, rare photographs and literature of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be published and made available on the website. Publication of *Bharatiya Sanvidhan Uddeshika* and *Samata* calendar, symposiums, discussions and workshops will be organised. The initiatives will be given publicity through cultural programmes, shows, drama, radio, TV and social media. It has also been decided to give the status of 'tourism destination' to the places associated with the life of the legend. On the lines of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Foundation set up by the Government of India, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samata Pratishthan will be set up in Maharashtra.

For caste verification and other related work to be completed at a faster rate, a new administrative building and campus is being built near Pune for Dr. Babasaheb



The Maharashtra team including Minister Rajkumar Badole outside Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's



IMPORTANT DECISIONS

- The Department completed the process of purchasing the home where Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed while he studied at London School of Economics.
- State Coordination Committee and State Action Committee set up for the welfare of the differently abled people.
- Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Gharkul Yojana, Handicapped Skill Development Scheme, Handicapped Welfare Commissionerate, strengthening of Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation and computerised certification are some of the work done during past one year.
- Skill development programmes are being organised by BARTI across the State. About 900 persons have gained employment from the programme at Gondia.

Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI). To encourage the industrialists from Dalit community, a huge exhibition will be held in Mumbai with products of Dalit industrialists on display. Many well-educated, working women, hailing from the community and living in cities like Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur lack proper accommodation. The Department is going to establish working women hostels at these cities to help them. The Government has also decided to build girl hostels at 50 talukas. Each of these hostels will have a capacity of 50.

The State Government is making a policy for the empowerment of differently abled persons so that they can lead an honourable life. The draft proposal has been sent to the Centre for approval. It is expected to be approved soon and ready for implementation. In other schemes, the Department is giving 100 per cent grant to special schools. Last year, the grant was given to 123 special schools. Persons and institutions working for the welfare of differently abled persons are honoured with State handicapped welfare awards every year. The Maharashtra Government has prepared a proposal to establish support homes for adult mentally retarded persons

above 23 years of age.

State Coordination Committee and State Action Committee have been established for the welfare of differently abled people. Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana, Gharkul Yojana, Handicapped Skill Development Scheme, Handicapped Welfare Commissionerate, strengthening of Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation and computerised certification are some of the works done. Skill development programmes are being organised by BARTI across the State. I am proud to say that about 900 persons have gained employment from the programme at Gondia. Ten thousand youth registered for the programme on August 17-18, 2015, at Nagpur.

The State Government encourages the youth to appear for the UPSC Examination and work at higher posts. Many youth from backward classes also appear for the examination. However, due to lack of proper guidance, they are not always successful. BARTI will now help them. Fifty boys and girls from backward sections of society who clear the prelims of the examination will be trained at well-known residential coaching classes. The arrangements will be done at Nagpur, Pune and Delhi. Residential training centres for preparing candidates for UPSC and Maharashtra Public Service Commission examinations have been established at Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad. **M**

—As told to **Nandkumar Waghmare**

“The most important decision of the Department has been that of purchasing the home where Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed while he studied in London

”



London house (From left) Minister for Social Justice, Rajkumar Badole with Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Sushma Swaraj during a meeting in New Delhi

**DILIP KAMBLE**

Social Justice & Special Assistance, Relief & Rehabilitation, Earthquake Rehabilitation, Minorities Development & Wakf, State Excise

“Working for **social** equality and justice”

An inclusive society with focus on skill development and ensuring equal rights for all is the way to go

On the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, year 2015-16 has been declared as the year of Equality and Social Justice Year. Make in Maharashtra is being implemented by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI), Pune through various skill development programmes. Free coaching classes were arranged for SC candidates appearing for UPSC examination through BARTI. Caste verification committees have been established at all districts. For effective implementation of the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act 1989, special courts are to be established at six divisional centres, out of which three are already functional.

The foreign education scholarship scheme for SC candidates has been improved. Institutes for minorities will now be able to fill their information online and 14 hostels for girls from minority section will be active from June next year. Decisions on a survey of Wakf properties under Act, 1995, Urdu to be made an optional subject in Marathi schools, permission for setting up Urdu Ghar at Jalgaon, Bhiwandi and Malegaon, and a new polytechnic at Muktainagar, Jalgaon have been taken. The National School Safety Programme has been implemented in 400 schools in Pune and Satara with full grant from Government of India. It has created awareness about disaster management. **M**

—As told to *Kashibai Thorat*

“Government must be **people-friendly**”

Governance should be people governance and administration should be people administration is what has driven Government's efforts

**SANJAY RATHOD**

Revenue

As a Minister of State for Revenue and Guardian Minister, Yavatmal, I have insisted on a resonant relationship between citizens and administration that can bring society-oriented, good governance. I held the first-in-the-State Samadhan Shibir under Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Nagarotthan Maha-Abhiyan in Yavatmal district.

I am quite passionate about relieving Yavatmal from drought through Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. Yavatmal has also gone for a river rejuvenation project. To bring good health services to people and financial assistance to needy patients, Maa Arogya Seva Samiti has been set up. We have also built a well-equipped Matoshree Waiting Room and Rest House in the campus of Government Medical College, Yavatmal, with facilities such as toilets, pure water and arrangements for taking rest. To curb farmer suicides, farmer families are provided seeds, fertilisers and other related farm facilities before the beginning of Kharif harvest. Baliraja Chetana Abhiyan is a new project aimed at farmers.

We have also increased the stamp duty powers. With this Act and remedial measures for stamp duty recovery and online systems, the revenue is expected to increase. The challans SMATS (SMS-based Mining Approval and Tracking System) is being implemented by the Revenue Department to weed out monopoly of sand mafia and control illegal transport of sand. **M**

—As told to *Sanjay Orke*



SMT. VIDYA THAKUR

Women and Child Development, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Food and Drugs Administration

“Malnutrition must be eliminated”

The Government aims at an all-round development of women and children, and to ensure food for all

As a Minister of State, I have been bestowed with the responsibility of Women and Child Welfare, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection and Drugs Administration. Maharashtra has been in the forefront in effective planning and implementation of various schemes for women and children. The State Government has proposed Mazee Kanya Bhagyashree on the lines of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme by the Government of India for prohibition of female infanticide and enhancing the participation of women in education. We are emphasising on removal of malnutrition in women and children. The Maharashtra Government has decided to make it mandatory for children remand homes to enroll their inmates for Bal Aadhaar cards. I plan to focus on improvement of remand homes with establishment of CCTV systems to get priority. Emphasis will be also laid on providing skill development, hostels at these homes, medical facilities, workshops and entertainment programmes for students.

My mission is that no one remains hungry in the State. Initiatives such as doorstep scheme, biometric system, tracking system for transport of foodgrains, updated lists of beneficiaries, computerisation of ration cards and others are being emphasised. All godowns in the State are being linked with computerisation. The taluka level-godowns have been included and GPS system will be used. **M**

—As told to Varsha Phadke



“The State is in a new era of cooperatives”

The Government would do everything to safeguard farmers' interest and assist district banks financially



DADAJI BHUSE

Co-operation

On being inducted as a Minister of State, I was given the responsibility of the department of Cooperation. The foundation of Cooperative movement was laid in Maharashtra itself and we plan to move ahead in the direction. There is a decision to provide interest grant for making long-term loans available for payment of FRP to the farmers supplying sugarcane to sugar factories. Considering the recurring drought situation, there is a decision to convert short-term loans to medium-term loans.

Financial assistance of ₹171.30 crore has been sanctioned to Vidarbha and Marathwada farmers to free them from loans taken from licensed money lenders. There is a decision to provide a concession in case of amount of ₹946 crore due from 37,766 farmer clients of Land Development Bank. The concession applies to an amount of ₹713 crore. There is a decision to enhance the period of repayment from three to five years for loans after their conversion to medium term from short term. An assistance of ₹380 crore has been sanctioned under to district central cooperative banks at Nagpur, Wardha and Buldhana. A survey is being conducted for cooperative societies that have been closed to cancel their registration. The State has 2.40 lakh cooperative societies. We will see that the societies recover the amounts due as per rules and follow the provisions of section 44 of Maharashtra Co-operatives Act, 1960 judiciously. **M**

—As told to Ajay Jadhav

**PROF. RAM SHINDE**

Home (Rural), Marketing, Public Health, Tourism, Agriculture and Horticulture

“Prosperous and **safe** Maharashtra”

Key initiatives include empowerment of farmers, better distribution system and safety of State

Strategic decisions have been taken by the Government for strengthening and empowerment of Police force. These include decentralisation of powers to transfer, delegation of administrative approval powers in case of Police Housing Scheme to Board of Directors and increase in the daily allowance of officers/staff in lieu of weekly off. A degree from Forensic Science Institute has been equated to other graduate degrees. Two new forensic science laboratories have been established at Kolhapur and Nanded and a proposal for setting up mobile forensic support units at 45 locations is under consideration.

Under Swadesh Darshan, the Government of India has selected Sindhudurg, on which a detailed project report for ₹102.11 crore has been submitted to the Centre. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has prepared a mobile app, Maha Explorer to help tourists get information on key tourist spots. Aurangabad has been announced as a tourist destination.

Bal Arogya Abhiyan, Arogyavardhini and Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana have been implemented in the State. Shiv Arogya Telemedicine Yojana and Operation Kayapalat are also implemented. Safety of the State, empowerment of farmers and distribution system for gaining rates for agro produce has been implemented. However, much has to be done still to ensure a healthy life to all citizens. **M**

—As told to **Vilas Bodke**

“To create **tanker** and drought-free State”

With a view to effectively use available water, it has been decided to accelerate river-linking project for Damanganga and Par-Tapi rivers

**VIJAY SHIVTARE**

Water Resources, Water Conservation, Parliamentary Affairs

Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan is for perennial agriculture and drinking water, which includes holding the water, increasing the level of ground water, creating decentralised water storages, taking up new works for water storage and repair of water resources such as lakes and dams. To make 5,000 villages drought free every year, we are committed to create tanker-free Maharashtra and drought-free Maharashtra by 2019.

Target-based projects under corporate social responsibility were made available as a policy on April 10, 2015. The permission to issue administrative sanction for 22 minor irrigation/reservoirs and khar land projects on hold was given in February. Similarly, 28 minor irrigation/reservoirs were given revised administrative sanctions in May 2015.

With a view to effectively use available water, it has been decided to accelerate river-linking project for Damanganga and Par-Tapi rivers. Survey and investigation of mega recharge project in Tapi valley has been sanctioned. All the backlog and projects where more than 75 per cent investments have been made will be completed and half of the incomplete projects will be completed on priority basis by 2019. An MoU for permission to use water from Ukai Dam for Maharashtra Sardar Sarovar project affected people was signed between Maharashtra and Gujarat on January 7, 2015. Special Rejuvenation Mission for old Malgujari lakes has been undertaken. **M**

—As told to **Rahul Bhalerao**



VIJAY DESHMUKH

Public Works (Public Undertakings), Transport, Labour, Textiles, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries

“Substantial **work** in public interest”

In past one year, efforts have been made to protect workers’ rights and initiate development schemes

There has been substantial work carried out by the departments of Transport, Public Works (Public Undertakings), Labour and Textiles, for which I am responsible as a Minister of State. The Labour Department has taken steps to ensure that workers from the organised and unorganised sector get their justified rights.

Key decisions include constituting a board for sugarcane harvesting workers under the Maharashtra Mathadi, Hamal and other Manual Workers Act, reconstitution of Mathadi Kamgar Mandal, setting up of National Social Security Board, establishment of a tripartite committee for considering the demands of sugar factory workers.

Textile Department is emphasising on processing every module of cotton produced in the State and building a large employment potential with an Integrated Processing Development Scheme for textiles. The first mega textile park has been started at Nandgaon Peth in Amravati. Comprehensive efforts are being made for the acceleration of textile industries such as handloom, power loom, spinning mills and others. The key decisions of the Transport Department include reservation of the seat for women in share a cab, a new regional transport office at Borivali, a vehicle testing and inspection centre at Nashik, establishment of State Road Safety Council and others. We are following up with the Government of India for fixing the minimum milk price for the State. **M**

—As told to **Irshad Bagwan**



“Every **village** must be self-sufficient”

The Government aims to create infrastructure for agriculture and rural development



DEEPAK KESARKAR

Finance, Rural Development, Planning

In last few years, Maharashtra had to face continuous natural calamities such as drought, unseasonal rains and hailstorms. A provision of ₹1,000 crore was made under the Jalyukta Shivar Yojana. Irrigation projects and building basic infrastructure were other areas of focus.

While working as Minister of State for Finance and Planning, my efforts are towards creating infrastructure for agriculture and rural development. Simultaneously, other constituents such as farmers, women and youth are also being considered. The Budget also had provision for agriculture schemes, irrigation, roads, electricity, rural housing, industry, tourism, forests, skill development, education, health and women empowerment. More importantly, the objective is to establish Make in Maharashtra, so that economy of the State is rejuvenated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call for Clean India. As Minister of State for Rural Development, it is my duty to take this call to every village. Construction of toilets in every village, keeping the area clean and eradicating open defecation are our targets. While implementing the cleanliness movement at villages, it is essential to create various forms of employment, good schools and primary health centres.

Roads, sanitation, nallahs, drinking water and toilets make a village become self-sufficient. As a Minister of State, I have concentrated on making every village self-sufficient. **M**

—As told to **Varsha Phadke**

**RAJESH AMBRISHRAO ATRAM**

Tribal Development

“Integrating tribals into the mainstream”

Education and nutrition can empower the backward communities and help them to integrate into mainstream society

The Government is implementing various schemes to integrate tribal communities into the mainstream of Indian society. Tribal students are being empowered so that they make an indelible mark in the present world of competitiveness. The State Government is providing finance to private institutes for running Ashram Shalas and permission for opening a college as extension of Ashram Shala.

As per Government Resolution dated April 21, 2015, 5 per cent free and direct funding scheme under the Tribal Sub-plan for Gram Panchayat in Scheduled Areas has been launched. There will be direct disbursement of PESA Gram Panchayat funds by the Government to the Gram Sabha, which is ₹258.50 crore for 2015-16. Five members of the Gram Sabha Fund Committee at every PESA Gram Panchayat will be trained through Yashada. A three-day training module has been created to be provided on cluster level during October/November, for which a provision of ₹2.53 crore has been made.

Annappurna central kitchens have been set up at Mundegaon in Nashik and Kambalgaon in Palghar with cooperation from Tata Trust and Akshaypatra Foundation. Both the kitchens are equipped to make 60,000 meals per day. In alliance with UNICEF, a programme titled WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) has been started from this year. APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojana aims to provide nutrition to pregnant and lactating women in tribal areas. **M**

—As told to **Rahul Bhalariao**

“Building affordable, but quality homes”

Strict and clear rules on housing and slum development are important for inclusive development of Maharashtra and its people

**RAVINDRA WAYKAR**

Housing, Higher and Technical Education

In case of Housing, the quality of buildings of Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority and slum development buildings (Rehab) should be of same quality of the buildings built for sale. A list will be made on the capacity of the developer based on his financial standing, stability and experience. Unless the developer is listed, he will not be able to enter into a contract with cooperative housing societies. No developer can undertake more work than his capacity. There is a decision that if the developer gives possession without occupation certificate (OC), all the expenses such as electricity, repair, maintenance, Property Tax and others have to be paid by him till the OC is not received. For development of Koliwada and Gaothan, appropriate provisions should be made in the development plans and rules. Families staying in transit camps with appropriate documents should be considered authentic.

Permission for new batches in colleges should be given on the basis of regions and need. There is a decision to offer qualitative higher education in rural areas. A decision has been taken to start a model college at Ambadve, the original place of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Sindhu Swadhyay Sanstha—for courses related to ocean, from vocational level to post-graduation and doctorate—has been started at Ratnagiri. **M**

—As told to **Pawan Rathod**



DR. RANJIT PATIL

Home (Urban), Urban Development, General Administration, Law and Judiciary, Parliamentary Affairs, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ports and Ex-Servicemen's Welfare

“Skills to **youth** will make the difference”

Focus is on basic infrastructure, even as skill and entrepreneurship development gets attention

Various measures for improving the proportion of conviction in criminal cases and a decision to present Nirbhaya Puraskar awards to people working against atrocities on women have been announced. The deferred project for CCTV has been placed on stream and a total of 6,020 CCTV cameras are being placed at 1,500 locations in Mumbai. A total of 1,285 CCTV cameras will be placed at 438 locations in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. For port development, efforts are being made for connecting ports to railway routes and highways.

The Smart City project is being carried out under Urban Development Department in two phases over five years. During the first phase, ten cities have been selected. The State is also working on Skill India mission given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under which the target of skilled manpower for Maharashtra is pegged at 4.5 crore. Pramod Mahajan Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission is being implemented and there are plans to create a skill development university and centre of excellence multi skilling centres in alliance with industrial houses, streamlining of websites for Mahakaushalya, employment and self-employment and setting up call centres. A provision of ₹161 crore has been made for FY 2015-16. The target for this year is 5 lakh skilled youth and making available employment and self-employment opportunities to them. **M**

—As told to Vilas Bodke



“The State will grow with **good** roads”

The road development plan proposes to construct 3,36,000 km of roads within next five years



PRAVIN POTE PATIL

Industries and Mining, Environment, Public Works (excluding Public Undertakings)

Considering the increasing population of the State, industrialisation, tourism development and communication reforms, the road development plan proposes to construct 3,36,000 km of roads within next five years. Road projects worth more than ₹50 lakh will be implemented with SCADA. The information on roads will be compiled through information technology and a road management system will be used for planning and sanctioning new projects and control. To bring alive the concept of Make in Maharashtra, the State Government has taken the initiative of simplifying essential licenses to start an industry, approving new projects and a single-window clearance facility for investments of ₹100 crore or more.

The Government has taken a policy decision to establish Mineral Development Foundation in every district. The industries in Mithi river area have been issued instructions to close down to reduce pollution and ₹5 crore will be allotted for area's beautification. Municipalities have to ensure proper management of solid waste. Instructions have been issued to stop production of polyethylene bags less than 50 microns.

As a Guardian Minister of Amravati, a vision plan has been drafted for the district. I am happy that Amravati city finds a place in the list of proposed Smart Cities. An innovative concept of tele-secretariat has been brought alive for public to contact in case of complaints. **M**

—As told to Jayshree Kolhe



Maharashtra@Delhi

Last one year saw State leaders visiting the Capital for mega meetings, events and deliberations. The trips led to project approvals, financial assistance from the Centre and occasions for sharing State's views with the national leadership. **Maharashtra Ahead** revisits the best moments





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1. Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao calls on President of India Pranab Mukherjee 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis during a Niti Aayog meeting 3. Chief Minister with Union Minister for Environment and Forests Prakash Javadekar 4. Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani with State Education Minister Vinod Tawde 5. Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat at the launch of National Skill Development Mission 6. Chief Minister meets Union Minister Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, Ram Vilas Paswan 7. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley with State Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar 8. Prime Minister and Chief Minister during the meet on setting up of Niti Aayog 9. Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and Mizoram at the sub-committee meeting for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 10. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley with State Cabinet delegation led by the Chief Minister 11. Maharashtra Ministers with Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway



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(Clockwise from top) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during an interview to *Jai Maharashtra*, Simhashta Kumbh Mela, Cabinet Ministers Ramdas Kadam, Rajkumar Badole,

From Government to people

The past one year has been a journey for Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, as its channels worked relentlessly with the new Government to take ahead its many endeavours

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was recently interviewed by a daily newspaper. The reporter's last question to him was, "Which has been the most memorable moment of your life this past year?" To this, the reply was, the moment when he was sworn as the Chief Minister.

The said moment was witnessed by the entire State on October 31, 2014. The day saw the initiation of a new, good governance to be lead by Devendra Fadnavis. October 31, 2015 marks the completion of one year under the rule of the new Government. The Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR) has had the honour of witnessing each moment under his leadership since its inception. It has documented and published the moments of importance through its five channels of communication.

This task was taken in hand on October 31, 2014. Not only did the DGIPR ensure the promotion of the oath ceremony of

the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, it also made sure to be the first one to interview the leader. Quite rightly, this was made possible by DGIPR's extremely inspiring Secretary, Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar. She got in touch with the to-be Chief Minister beforehand and explained the strength and reach of Directorate's mediums. His time was taken for an appearance on *Jai Maharashtra* immediately after the oath ceremony. Just like Maharashtra was exposed to a new realm, the DGIPR also experienced the historical event for the first time. In his interview, the Chief Minister expressed his vision to lead Maharashtra on the path to development and prosperity. This interview was later aired by other channels.

We chose Change in Progress as a theme for the new Government and released advertisements, hoardings and articles in *Lokrajya*. For November 2014, a lot of thought went into the editions of *Lokrajya*, *Maharashtra Ahead* and *Urdu Lokrajya*. The incredible weight of progressive branding of the



Subhash Desai, Smt. Pankaja Munde, Sudhir Mungantiwar and Eknath Khadse

Chief Minister and his Cabinet was on our shoulders. We managed a successful execution from the first edition itself. Every following edition expertly showcased the programmes, decisions and strategies of the Government.

For economic, finance and foundation policies, the Government announced Make in Maharashtra to propel the State to new heights in industrial investment and infrastructure. Programmes and policies were introduced accordingly. *Lokrajya* took it upon itself to give the programme the required strength. To give character to Make in Maharashtra, the Deputy Director of our Exhibition Department, Seema Ranalkar designed a logo that eventually turned out to become the face of the programme. Every moment of the Make in Maharashtra movement was documented and published by *Lokrajya* and *Maharashtra Ahead*. The documentation on the programme is available with the DGIPR on a monthly basis.

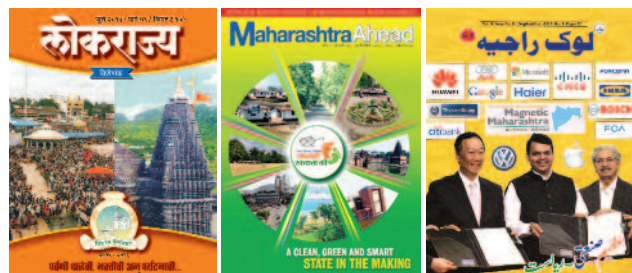
The Chief Minister's support to Jalyukta Shivar Yojana was also successfully promoted by *Lokrajya*, *Maharashtra Ahead*, *Urdu Lokrajya*, *Jai Maharashtra* (Doordarshan), *Dilkhulas* (Akashwani) and *Mahanews* (web portal). Many district officers wrote about the resounding success of the programme in local newspapers to make people aware and turn it into a public movement. Team *Lokrajya* travelled to many districts in Maharashtra for a detailed cover

story. Almost every medium took notice and published the incidents revolving around the flagship scheme.

Mahanews, our web portal, directed total attention to the scheme. Created by our team, the news files and jingles on the programme turned out to be great hits. Sections on the interviews of Maharashtra Ministers in the Union Government, interviews of Cabinet Ministers and a day with a Minister were introduced. Through these, we brought to light the Ministers' point of view about issues such as progress of State, plans and strategies.

Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan was promoted well, and the credit for its success goes to *Mahanews*, *Jai Maharashtra*, *Dilkhulas*, *Lokrajya* and *Maharashtra Ahead*

For increase of investment, business and employment in the State, we covered all the foreign trips of the Chief Minister. *Maha-Udhyog-Rashtra*, a section in *Lokrajya* and *Maharashtra Ahead* registered huge success. An exclusive interview with the Minister for Industries was aired on *Jai Maharashtra*. *Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan* was promoted well, and all the credit for its success goes to *Mahanews*, *Jai Maharashtra*



(Clockwise from top) Channels of DGIPR: *Lokrajya*, *Maharashtra Ahead*, *Urdu Lokrajya*, *Dilkhulas*, *Mahanews* and *Jai Maharashtra*



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the award ceremony conducted by DGIPR to honour excellence in journalism in Mumbai

and *Dilkhulas*. *Lokrajya* and *Maharashtra Ahead* created a special edition detailing the campaign under the theme, A clean, green and smart State in the making. The Exhibition Department created a beautiful and compelling logo, which was then brought to the audience through advertisements and hoardings. The Film Division (Documentary) created documentaries to drive across the seriousness of the campaign. The Chief Minister took the oath of seven steps to cleanliness among the representatives and officers at four different places. To create the right atmosphere for the growth of the campaign, the District Information Department extended full support. We also created attractive banners and backdrops for this event.

WE, THE DIGITAL PEOPLE

The new Government proved to be the harbinger of change and development. The DGIPR brought this up with sincerity through its channels. We made use of digital platforms all year through. Akola, Chandrapur, Wardha, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik and on other districts was made available via Facebook. Some district officers also took to Twitter as a means to share information with public. Our various Whatsapp groups turned out to be legendary. These groups increased connectivity among the DGIPR groups. The CM News on Whatsapp is a sure-shot way to participate in Government's programmes.

The incredible success of the Kumbh Mela at Nashik and Trimbakeshwar is another feather to our cap. The efforts taken by Nashik Divisional Information Office and DGIPR for the success of this event were commendable. The hi-tech media centre built for national and international media persons was exceptionally helpful. The DGIPR took the lead for building multi-cam technology for the live telecast of Shahi Snan. This made it possible to screen the event on more than three channels at once. The usual sea of cameras was absent, leading to cost saving. The event was publicised on Facebook and Twitter.

The advertisements and billboards proved to be attractive



The Exhibition Department created a logo for Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan, which was then brought to the audience through advertisements and hoardings

and influential in driving more and more devotees to the Mela. The ads were published in every publication of the State. The jingles created by the Film Division kept audiences hooked, creating a great vibe around the event. Along with Maharashtra channels, the event was covered by national channels too. Simhasa Samvaad, a new series was launched on *Mahanews*. *Lokrajya* and *Maharashtra Ahead* also presented the latest on the Kumbh Mela with a special coverage in their editions. The special issue was published in July.

AWARD CEREMONY

The DGIPR conducts an award ceremony to honour excellence in journalism and to dedicate lifetime awards. The awards weren't given for the past three years. This year, however, we conducted the

ceremony with pomp and show. The event was organised under the guidance of the Chief Minister in January. We now plan to give away the awards in the same year itself, and based on the suggestions of the Chief Minister, the awards will include the category of social media.

The DGIPR has outdone itself in the past year in departments of writing, photography and media. Under the guidance of Secretary Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar and Director General Chandrashekhar Oak, we have become the connecting cord between the Government and the people. **M**

—Suresh Wandile



The **game** changers

The first year of Government of Maharashtra saw various schemes and people-friendly initiatives for a sustainable and inclusive development. **Pallavi Singh** lists the moves that made the difference

JALYUKTA SHIVAR ABHIYAN

GOING THE DROUGHT-FREE WAY



The flagship scheme of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan aims to bring water empowerment to 25,000 drought-affected villages of Maharashtra within the next five years. The scheme that aims to relieve the State from its ongoing water scarcity has been going strong with villages building infrastructure to store rainwater for long.

Perennial water can provide regular water for agricul-



Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan aims to bring water empowerment to 25,000 villages in next five years

ture, enhance the water level in the area and maintain soil moisture. The integrated effect of all these will reflect on agriculture production.

The primary objective of Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan is to establish the belief in a farmer that, "every drop of rainwater is owned by me and the same should percolate in my land." The Agriculture Department has also linked integrated watershed development programme with Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. A large-scale tree plantation is also being undertaken in villages to avoid soil erosion.

The purpose of Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan is to rejuvenate the State's natural water resources. Works of compartment bunding, desiltation, mud nalla bunding, cement check dams, repairs of bunding, farm ponds, village *talao*, refilling of wells, recharge shaft, drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation have been undertaken. The programme has a latent capacity of ushering in economic prosperity through water prosperity.

AAPLE SARKAR

FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE



A brainchild of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the Aaple Sarkar portal was launched on January 26 to provide a platform to the common man for redressal of one's grievances. The portal has so far received 9,200 complaints, of which 78 per cent have been solved. Grievances from the portal are also taken up during the online Lokshahi Din.

The Chief Minister launched the second phase of the portal on Independence Day this year. In its second phase, Aaple Sarkar will be implemented at the district level on pilot basis, covering Thane, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Amravati. The portal has also included a link to Right to Services Act. The third phase of the portal is expected to be launched on Republic Day next year.



MAKE IN MAHARASHTRA

FROM RED TAPE TO RED CARPET

Maharashtra is gearing up to be not just the number one State in India, but also the best place to manufacture. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has successfully promoted Make in Maharashtra

globally and received an overwhelming response from global business community. Foreign direct investment followed with auto majors General Motors announcing to invest additional ₹6,400 crore in Pune and

Chrysler assuring an investment of ₹2,000 crore in the State.

Maharashtra's image as an investment-friendly destination got a boost on a global platform when it won the bid for Foxconn's \$5 billion deal. Maharashtra's MoU with Cisco on the Smart Cities project, starting with Nagpur as a pilot project, is another feather in State's cap.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' presence at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, Hannover Industrial Fair in Germany and AgriTech 2015 in Israel emphasised that Maharashtra has rolled out a red carpet to companies to set up operations. His visits to China, USA and Japan were other milestones in the journey of Make in Maharashtra.



SWACHH MAHARASHTRA ABHIYAN BUILDING A CLEAN STATE

Following the launch of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the State Government launched Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan. The State will be implementing the seven elements of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi across the State. The 'seven steps to cleanliness' constitute firm resolve to participate, extensive public participation, 100 per cent use of toilets, waste collection—classification—transport, scientific processing of wastes,

processing of drainage water and creation of Green Maharashtra. Sanitation is the most important area addressed by the programme. Maharashtra is aiming to wipe out open defecation by 2018. In its first stage,

State is aiming to wipe out open defecation by 2018. In its first stage, 19 cities achieved open defecation freedom

19 cities in the State achieved open defecation freedom with solid waste management practices in place. Under Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan, the State Government has focused on both urban and rural areas. The success stories will be felicitated for their good work, encouraging others to embrace sanitation and make their cities clean. Talukas that celebrated open defecation this year include Mahabaleshwar and Jawli from Satara, Gaganbawda in Kolhapur, Devgad, Malwan, Vengurla, Sawantwadi and Kanakavali from Sindhudurg.

RIGHT TO SERVICES ACT IT IS TIME TO SERVE

The Maharashtra Government has begun implementing the Maharashtra Guarantee of Public Services (MGPS) Act with effect from October 2, 2015. In the first phase, 224 services from 12 State Government departments have been identified and more would be introduced gradually. The Government has so far launched 42 services online and plans are afoot to introduce more soon. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis added that the Government is formulating a time-frame within which officers will have to ensure availability of Government services. Delay in

providing the services would result in action against the officer.

Among the services that are immediately available include issuing documents like birth and caste certificates, domicile certificates, ration cards, licenses for small business establishments, etc. According to State Government officials, those applying for a service will be given an acknowledgement in writing or electronically or through SMS, specifying date, time, place, unique complaint number, particulars of complainant with stipulated disposal time frame. Besides State Government employees, civic bodies, town and country planning departments and Panchayats are brought under the Right to Services Act.

MUKHYAMANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA THE CHANGING RURAL LANDSCAPE



The Government of Maharashtra has set a target of strengthening about 35,000 km of rural roads in coming seven years under Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the State's version of a

similar Union Government Scheme. Under the State scheme, the Rural Development Department plans to take up roads not included in the Union Government's Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

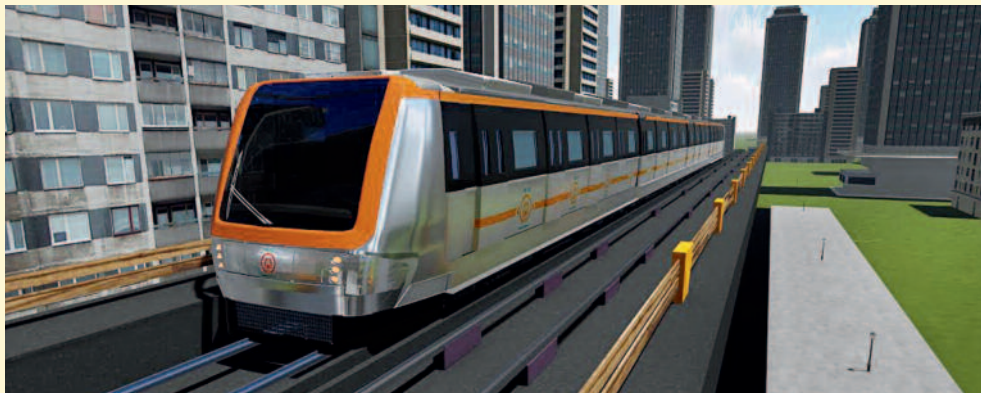
The Central scheme is for strengthening the rural road network, mainly in unconnected habitations with a population above 500, villages in hilly areas, and desert and tribal areas with a population of over 250. The State-level scheme is also considering tribal villages with a nominal population of 100. The proposal is expected to come up

MASS TRANSIT CHEER

MUMBAI METRO TO EXPAND

The State Government took a decision in 138th annual meeting of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority by sanctioning ₹35,400 crore for a 118-km expansion of Metro network in Mumbai. The metro network will include Dahisar-Charkop-Bandra-Mankhurd Metro-2 corridor—₹12,000 crore and 40 km, Wadala-Ghatkopar-Thane-Kasarvadavali Metro-4 via Wadala GPO and R.A.Kidwai Marg—₹12,000 crore and 40 km, Dahisar-E-Andheri-E-Bandra-E Metro-5 corridor—₹8,100 crore and 27 km long and Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road Metro-6 corridor—₹3,300 crore and 11 km long. The State Government has also approved two new detailed project reports—one for the 16.5 km Andheri-E to Dahisar-E Metro corridor and the other for 18.6 km Dahisar to D.N. Nagar Metro corridor—prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, and has estimated the corridors at a cost of ₹4,737 crore and ₹4,994 crore, respectively.

The Government has also given administrative approval to the expenditure of ₹743.73 crore for the construction of three elevated roads to clear traffic chaos at Bandra-Kurla Complex and Santacruz-Chembur junctions.



The 1.3-km elevated road running from MTNL junction to LBS Flyover and the 3.45-km elevated road from Kurla (Kapadia Nagar) to Vakola near Western Express Highway (₹480.63 crore) will help clear SCLR junction. The 1.9-km elevated road from Bharat Diamond Bourse in 'G' Block to Vakola junction near Western Express Highway (₹263.09 crore) will help decongest BKC junction as the motorists will be able to reach Vakola straight from the 'G' Block in the Bandra-Kurla Complex avoiding BKC junction.

PUNE METRO PROJECT GETS CENTRE'S NOD

The proposed project for the Pune Metro has received Centre's nod, paving the way for over ₹11,000-crore work for overhead rails to ease the worsening traffic conges-

tion in the city. The project will be a "mixed one" with both underground and elevated corridors, informed Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. As per the recommendations of the project report prepared for Pune Metro by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the city should have the first phase corridor (Swargate to Nigdi) underground on the route going through congested areas, while the second (Vanaz to Ramwadi) could be an elevated one.

MIHAN'S PRIZED POSSESSION

With Reliance Industries deciding to set up an aerospace park in MIHAN, Nagpur metro rail has assumed a lot of importance. Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) is an important project for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur.

The aerospace park is expected to increase employment. Lot of people living in different parts of Nagpur will travel to MIHAN for work and the metro rail will provide a safe and fast way of travel. The work on the ₹8,680 crore project has started.

The State Government has extended full cooperation to Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited (NMRCL), the special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up to construct and run the metro rail. NMRCL would employ 10,000 locals for construction work. One important aspect of the project is solarisation. NMRCL plans to meet 40 per cent of its electricity requirement through solar energy. The Nagpur Metro Rail will have two corridors—North-South (19.658 km long with 17 stations) and East-West (18.557 km long with 19 stations).



OPERATION KAYAPALAT

A HEALTHY MOVE

The Maharashtra Government has launched Operation Kayapalat to rejuvenate primary health centres (PHCs) across the State and to provide quality health services to citizens. The scheme will focus on maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in rural health centres. A successful beginning has been made in Pune and Kolhapur. Minister for Health Dr. Deepak Sawant said, "Operation Kayapalat aims to provide quality health services to people, making the PHCs, sub-district hospitals, rural hospitals and district hospitals equipped with modern instruments and experts to develop a positive attitude in the staff towards healthcare delivery and modern technology."



for Cabinet approval soon. It will be on the lines of the Central scheme.

The plan, to be implemented in three phases, will require an outlay of about ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 crore over seven years. Eighty per cent of the work will involve strengthening of existing roads, while 20 per cent will be for adding new tar roads. The aim is to create a good 10-12 km contiguous road network in every taluka of the State in every year of project implementation. The Government has also started looking at innovative technologies for construction of these roads, such as using plastic waste while making the hot mix for tar roads.



MUMBAI-NAGPUR EXPRESSWAY

COMMUNICATION SUPERHIGHWAY

Soon, people from Mumbai travelling to Nagpur by road will be able to reach within half the time taken usually, that is about ten hours, as the State Government will build an 800

km long expressway between the two cities, announced Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. After Mumbai-Pune expressway, this will be the second expressway in the State.

With the Government planning to spend ₹30,000 crore on the project, the new expressway will connect four major cities of Maharashtra—Mumbai, Nashik, Aurangabad and Nagpur. The Government plans to develop IT parks, smart cities and education complexes along it. The road will be designed for high-speed vehicular traffic. It will have CCTVs and be equipped with fibre optic cables. To be undertaken in two phases, the project will be completed by 2019. In the first phase, beginning end of 2015, it will complete four lanes; later, in the second half, six lanes will be completed. It will help in creating another industrial and agro-industries hub in the State.

FOR DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

MONUMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State Government acquired a 2,050 sq.ft bungalow in London where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar lived during 1921-22. The primary agreement of purchase of the London house where the architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed for a while during his studies at London School of Economics has been completed. Soon the rest of the process will be completed.

Once the paper work is done, the London house will be transformed into a museum-cum-memorial dedicated to the life of architect of Indian Constitution. A library and research centre for students will be set up. Every year,



the Social Justice Department of Maharashtra sends students from backward class abroad for their advanced studies. The house will help these students stay in London during their education.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the

foundation stone of a grand memorial to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at the Indu Mills compound in Mumbai. The memorial, to be developed at a cost of over ₹400 crore in the city where Bharat Ratna Dr. Babsaheb Ambedkar lived for several years,



is planned to be completed during the tenure of the present Government.

To be built on a sprawling 12.50 hectare, the statue of Dr. Ambedkar will be 150 feet tall. The memorial will comprise a stupa—140 ft. in height and 110 m in circumference. There will be an Ashoka Chakra covering the memorial and a vipassana (meditation) hall with a seating capacity of 13,000. A section, named Gallery of Struggle, depicting momentous events associated with the life and works of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, will also be part of the project.



SMART CITY MISSION THE SMART ONES

The Smart Cities Mission of the Union Government proposes to develop 100 smart cities in India in next five years. The State Cabinet has given approval for the implementation of the programme in Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has decided to implement the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and has shortlisted 43 cities for the same. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious project has provisions to upgrade 100 cities/towns between 2015 and

2019. The Centre is providing ₹1,000 crore for its implementation in Maharashtra in the first phase for ten cities.

A high-powered committee was set up under Chief Secretary Swadheen Kshatriya to select ten cities and prepare a detailed project report. The ten cities shortlisted under the project include Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad, Amravati, Solapur, Nagpur, Kalyan-Dombivali, Aurangabad, Nashik and Thane.

The Smart Cities Mission will be implemented in 100 cities with an outlay of ₹48,000 crore and each selected city would get Cen-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious project has provisions to upgrade 100 cities/towns between 2015 and 2019

tral assistance of ₹100 crore per year for five years. An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the State/Urban local bodies. A special purpose vehicle will be set up for effective implementation of the scheme. By setting up Smart City Forum, co-ordination of various sections will be sought.

In the second stage of the competition, each of the potential Smart Cities will have to prepare their proposals for participation in the City Challenge. For monitoring the mission at State level, a high-powered steering committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted. The Secretary, Urban Development (2) will work as Director of the State Mission.

The development of Smart Cities Mission aims at comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure and improving the quality of life and attracting people and investments to the City, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of development.

The objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'smart' solutions. The core infrastructure includes adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility, public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalisation, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and health and education.



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