



# Maharashtra Blueprint

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Yes, it is possible.





# Maharashtra Blueprint




Yes, it is possible.



(Abridged Version)



A close-up portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing brown-rimmed glasses and a white button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is blurred, showing some bokeh light effects.

I respectfully dedicate this blueprint to our beloved Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who gave us our identity and purpose in life, and to those saints and social reformers who helped create the Maharashtra that is today.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'Rajendra', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Rajendra*



## What is a blueprint?

Politics is not just about elections. It has a much larger scope and meaning. Unfortunately, we have confined our understanding of the word to a rather narrow meaning.

“How do we want our nation or state to be? What should be the basic tenets that should never be compromised? What should be our priorities and why? To have such an ideology, to fight elections, to come to power in order to promote that ideology, to win the elections and to convince people in order to win elections” – that is politics.

Politics therefore, is not limited to elections. Politics must have an ideology, a way that you perceive your society to be, a dream that you dream for your society, and politics must be about realizing that dream. Politics must be based on values and principles that are decided and followed collectively. This blueprint is our dream of a prosperous Marathi Maharashtra. And we present it to you so that together, we can work towards realizing this dream.

We are not the first ones to have prepared such a plan. In the course of history, there have been many kings, heads of states and political parties that put forward their vision and mobilized people to follow their dream. This blueprint is our attempt.

Perhaps the biggest example is that of Samrat Ashoka. Nearly 2250 years ago, around 264 to 272 BC, Samrat Ashoka ruled a large part of India, Pakistan and Afganistan and stopped short of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the South. In his 40 years of rule, he undertook many projects that benefitted the society. Samrat Ashoka is believed to be the first king in the history of mankind who declared as his goals peace, harmony and the creation of a just and humane society.

The famous historian, H. G. Wells, had this to say about Samrat Ashoka: ‘For eight and twenty years Asoka worked sanely for the real needs of men. Amidst the tens of thousands of names of monarchs that crowd the columns of history, their majesties and graciousnesses and serenities and royal highnesses and the like, the name of Asoka shines, and shines, almost alone, a star’.





Interestingly, two of the edicts on which Samrat Ashoka documented his beliefs are to be found in Maharashtra, in the town of Sopara in Thane district.

Apart from Samrat Ashoka, we can easily recall other names that wrote about their dream of a society. Chanakya wrote his treatise Arthashastra about economics and politics in society around 300 BC; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848; the writings of Henry David

Thoreau such as Civil Disobedience (1849) and John Ruskin's Unto This Last (1860) that inspired Mahatma Gandhi, presented their thoughts about the working of society; Lenin's Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution (1905); Hitler's Mein Kampf or Mahatma Gandhi's Hind Swaraj (1909) – all are documents that are in the same genre.

The 22 vows of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mao's documents on Cultural Revolution, Dharampal's papers about ideal society such as The Beautiful Tree (1983) also talk about their ideas of society. This is not an exhaustive list and there are still more names that can go into this list. The point that we wish to make here is that politics needs an ideology, and politicians must have a vision and a dream about where they wish to take their people. By making such an attempt, we do not claim that we are in the same league as these great people. But one thing is certain –

Politics is about presenting and pursuing this dream, and mobilizing people to follow this dream. The one who does that is a true leader.

This blueprint is our dream of Maharashtra, our vision of how we want to build a Marathi society, Marathi culture which will be a dominant force in the world.

## Why Blueprint

You may wonder: Was it really necessary to write such a blueprint? Was it necessary to spend



such a long time and create such a fuss over it?

We all are aware of the depths we have sunk to. Maharashtra was an uncontested state in the entire country as far as economic development was concerned. Today, other states are catching up and we are steadily losing ground. Maharashtra gave many social reformers to the country; the state known as the birthplace of many movements. Today, such experiments are few and those that exist are sadly neglected. We are happy extolling our past glories and unwilling to reflect on the impacts our actions are going to have on the future.

A state where its people stood up for principles has now forgotten its values. We led the country in girl's education; today, many parts of Maharashtra are known for their high rates of female foeticide. We gave many national leaders who stood up for their principles and took public stands against common beliefs; our leaders today are engrossed in pursuing selfish motives and filling their own coffers, heedless of the larger damage they are inflicting on society and environment.

Our governance has become mostly self-fulfilling, something that is totally against the very basic principle of governance. Public good has become a forgotten term. Corrupt systems are so set that these are even passed smoothly from one generation of politicians and bureaucrats to the next. A newcomer cannot break them even if (s)he so desires. If the common person's complaints are looked into, it is hailed as an extraordinary achievement. If justice is delivered, especially in cases that involve public figures, it is exceptional.

The state is ridden in debt. Public funds are being siphoned off for private benefit. Most of our public institutions such as Municipal Corporations, Gram Panchayats, Cooperative banks, Corporations and so on are on the verge of collapse financially (Akola Municipal Corporation was declared bankrupt in 2011-12). Financial discipline is at its very lowest. There is a general sense of despair and hopelessness

We read about this daily in newspaper columns and view it on television channels. We experience it in our daily lives. This has taken a toll on us – it has put us in a fire-fighting mode and we have lost our ability to dream.

Meanwhile, the world is moving ahead, taking long strides into the future. The concepts of development, growth, progress are being defined differently. The G8 group of nations are concerned about saving their economies; the threat of climate change looms ahead. The world is witnessing exploitation of natural resources as never before. All this is forcing world thought leaders to think differently of a society that will live differently. Books are being written explaining the crisis to the human society, new thoughts are being proposed. Experiments are being conducted in different communities to deal with these challenges. Man is known for the questions he raises, and his search for answers. Human society progressed as it dealt with these questions and answers. But we – we are lost to this and happy in our own world.

This is a wake-up call. We need to rise and dream. A dream that will bring us together as a state, that will move us towards a goal of a better Maharashtra.

This goal cannot be achieved, this dream cannot be dreamt, Maharashtra cannot be pulled out of the dire straits it is in, unless we think in a fundamental way, and think really long term. The foundations that we lay down now, should build Maharashtra in a way that will keep the state ahead for the next century. It is with this purpose that this blueprint has been written.

## **This blueprint will help us in many ways...**

### **Blueprints give us a Dream**

We, the people of this state, need a dream to follow. A dream that we believe in, that we can look up to. A dream that will motivate us towards a common purpose. A dream that will bind us together in its fulfillment. This dream will give us a sense of purpose and drive us to bring it into reality. These blueprints give us that dream.

### **Blueprints look into the Future**

Today, we are so caught up with the day-to-day problems that we have lost our ability to look beyond them into the future. Can we not create a future for us that is collectively thought of and planned? What is the future we would like? What sort of cities do we want to build? What are the occupations

of the next century? These blueprints are futuristic and attempt to answer these questions.

### **Blueprints go beyond Problem-solving**

Today, we are so caught-up with our day-to-day problems. How can I ensure admission for my child in a good school? How can I avoid traffic? How do I get something done without paying a bribe? All these are important issues, and need answers. These questions engross us so much that we cannot look at the larger issues. Addressing these larger, broader issues is going to provide us solutions to our day-to-day concerns also. This exercise prompts us to stop fire-fighting and look beyond.

### **Blueprints re-evaluate our Basics**

This has given us an opportunity to put ourselves under the microscope, to reflect about ourselves and to evaluate ourselves – to answer questions such as whether what we are doing is right, whether we are going in the right direction. It is an opportunity to compare ourselves with the world.

### **Blueprints plan for Sustainability**

We want to build a lasting State, a society that has the potential to grow and better itself on an ongoing basis. We do not want to provide short term solutions – not 5 years, nor 25 years. We want to think of beyond 100 years. This calls for a society that is based on thought, principles and values. This blueprint tries to provide such a thought.

### **Blueprints provide a Holistic View**

We cannot afford to give piecemeal solutions any more. All our problems are linked and affect everything else. We need to understand the repercussions of our actions across all sectors. Therefore, each problem needs to be looked at in conjunction with other problems and everything needs to be thought about and addressed collectively. These blueprints provide a holistic view and therefore, a holistic solution. We have also tried to think of “out of the box” solutions.

### **Blueprints attempt to Leapfrog**

Maharashtra may be a progressive state within the country, but when compared with other

developing countries, we are still a developing state. Today, the developed countries are facing new problems, the seeds of which were sown in their development trajectory. Do we have to follow this same path of development and face the same problems? Can we not leapfrog, learning and avoiding the mistakes made by these developed countries?

## **Blueprints address the Challenges of the Future**

The world is changing at a rate unimagined ever before. New technologies, new innovations are changing the way we work, the way we think and what we can do. We must keep pace with this changing world if we are to compete within it. We must prepare ourselves to be on the forefront of every lasting change.

## **Blueprints consider All Sections of the Society**

Today, development seems to be favoring a few. And even minor emergencies push others who were doing well across the poverty line. Progress is desirable, prosperity is to be sought, but for everyone and not for any privileged group. We need to think for all sections of the society, across the state. We need to take everyone with us so that progress binds us all together. These blueprints aim for an equitable society.

## **Blueprints lay down our Priorities:**

We need to decide what is important and what we should let go, and why. We will need to let off some things and we must identify those. We need to decide which direction we want to take, which direction to avoid. These blueprints suggest the priorities that we must follow.

The following five questions guided us in making this blueprint -

### **Are we making “good” suggestions?**

Are our solutions worthy and in line with our character?

### **Are we making “just” suggestions?**

Someone’s benefit should not be another’s loss. Are we avoiding that?

### **Are we making “appropriate” suggestions?**

Are our suggestions necessary and required? Are they timely?

### **Are we making “correct” suggestions?**

Are our suggestions right? Are they feasible? Can we draw from other’s experiences?

### **Will our suggestions take my Marathi society a step ahead?**

Will they create a better, more prosperous society? If a wise, prosperous society is what we desire, is that going to happen?

Only those suggestions that answered these questions in the affirmative became a part of this blueprint.

## **What is “Development”?**

Before moving on to the blueprint, let us first understand what we mean by ‘development’. This is a much-used word, so much so that it has lost its shine.

‘Develop’ means to unroll, or unfold. ‘Development’ is the process of developing, or being developed, or the process of betterment. It means moving ahead and improving our lives, being happier.

This term has been interpreted by many authorities in their own way. ‘Development’ is a continuum, an ongoing process that should be irreversible. It should not take us backwards, nor should it be temporary. It should not be such that the future chances of further development are killed in the process. ‘Development’ should sustain.

The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development has this definition for sustainable development: “Development is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This is the development that we would like to achieve – a development that will not be exploitative, nor take away from the future generations.

To check whether we were following the right kind of ‘development’, we tried to answer these questions:

1. Are people safe?
2. Is there economic, social, cultural equality in all sections of society?
3. Does everyone get enough to eat? Do people have access to clean drinking water?
4. Do people have safe, quiet homes with basic sanitation facilities?
5. Are there enough employment opportunities for everyone?
6. Can people provide excellent quality education to their wards?
7. Does everyone have easy access to affordable health care?
8. Do people live in a clean, peaceful environment with the means of recreation?
9. Do people have a sense of identity and belonging?
10. Do people look forward to their future hopefully and enthusiastically?

In short,

We seek the development of people.

We seek the happiness and security of people.

We seek an equal opportunity of progress for our people.

We must save, conserve, nurture and grow what we have – be it our environment, be it our assets, our rivers, our people, the capacities of our people, or be it our culture. That is development.

Development of Maharashtra means the development of its people.

This is what we have tried to remember as we wrote the entire blueprint.

# **Maharashtra – As of Today**

This is a small attempt at a SWOT analysis of Maharashtra, to look at where we stand, what our characteristics, strengths, threats and opportunities.

## **Legacy of social reform**

It will not be an exaggeration to say that no other state or country in the world has seen such a prolonged process of social reform as has been in Maharashtra. Starting from the numerous saints in the twelfth century who wove messages of social reform into religious discourse and played a crucial role in shaping the society, individuals like Gopal Hari Deshmukh or Lokhitawadi, Mahatma Phule, Yashwantrao Chavan and Balasaheb Thackeray recently, Maharashtra has seen a long list of reformers who influenced and shaped the character of Marathi society. Reform remains deeply ingrained in the psyche of Maharashtra as nothing else.

## **Rich tradition and history**

Ours has been a society that always challenged invasive forces and gave the slogan of self-rule to the world. Ours is a society that has been guided by saints. Courage and valour are ingrained in our blood; we are proud of the high self-esteem we hold ourselves in and we love to take on new challenges.

## **India's largest industrial sector**

Maharashtra led the country in industrial development. The educated and progressive people and a skilled workforce provided a fertile ground to most industries and even today, Maharashtra remains a preferred choice. Our industries are the largest in size and in numbers and have the largest output. We still attract highest proportion of foreign direct investment.

## **Mumbai's location on the international trade route**

Strategically located, Mumbai continues to be Maharashtra's gateway to the world and the world's gateway to Maharashtra. Most corporate houses of the country are based out of Mumbai. A well-trained and highly skilled human resource is available in Mumbai. The city has a strong work culture. These strengths place Mumbai in a position to play an important role in the world economy and we need to use it to our advantage.



## **High urbanisation**

Maharashtra's high rate of urbanisation has failed to ensure a planned, disciplined and aesthetically sound urban environment. This has put our cities at risk. To draw advantage, the process of urbanisation needs to be given our urgent attention.

## **Second largest state in terms of population, third largest in terms of Geographical area**

Population can be used to our advantage if we have the right policies. Though not a resource-rich state, Maharashtra's economy would be placed at 50th – 52nd rank in comparison with other countries. We need to think about this.

## **Youth: Our demographic dividend**

Almost half the state's population is under 29 years of age, and 28% are in the age group 15 to 29 years. This young, aspiring population will shape Maharashtra's future. Their enthusiasm coupled with the experience of their seniors can create wonders.

## **720 km coastline**

If used and developed properly, this long stretch can be used to our advantage. Fisheries, tourism, marine research are areas that could be further explored.

## **15% forest area**

The rich bio-diversity must be conserved and used to our benefit, after taking their keepers- the adivasis, into confidence.

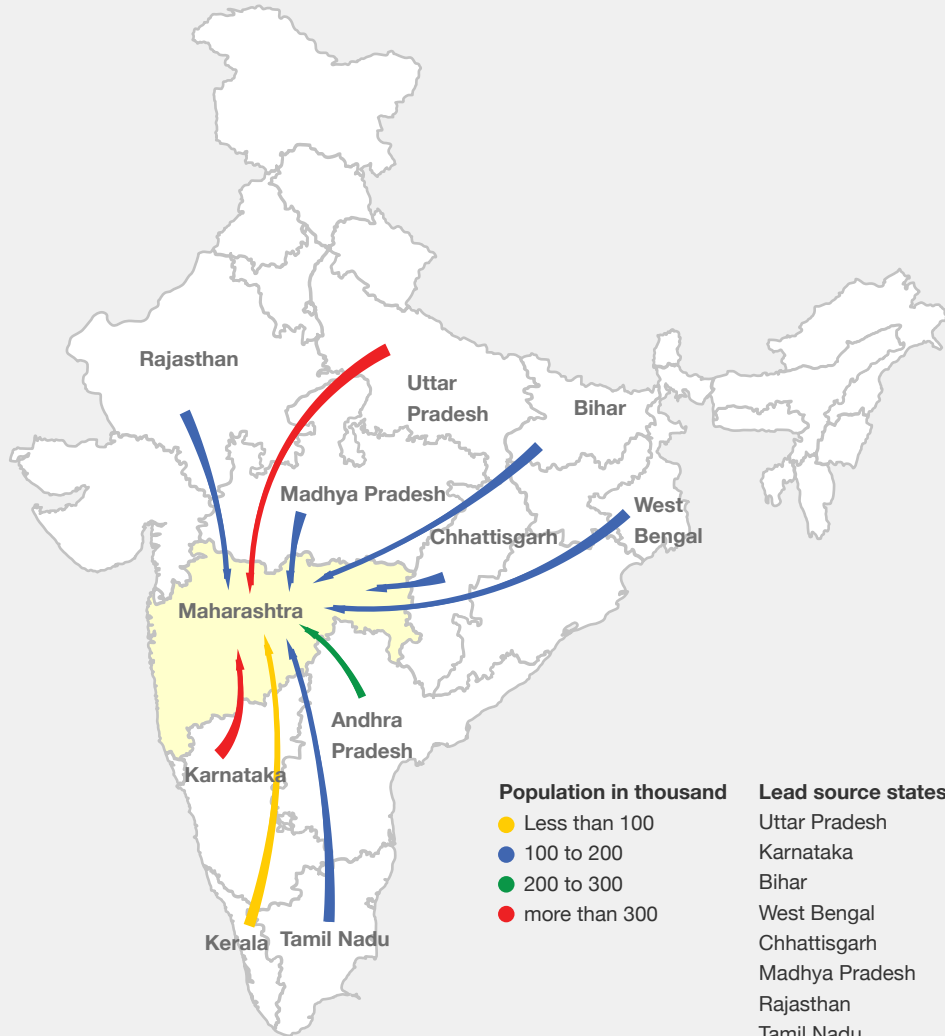
## **Decreasing agricultural output**

An increasing population and decreasing land under cultivation is a cause for concern. We must ensure food-sufficiency for our growing population. Farm produce must be freed from subsidies.

## **Inter-state migration**

Yes, Indian citizens can move anywhere within the country. And Maharashtra provides employment opportunities and a better quality of life than does any other state. However, we need to consider the strain on the resources in Maharashtra that this migration from other states is causing (see map). We must plan and manage this migration.

**Major Net Migration Flow in India**  
(duration 0-9 years), 2001



Source: Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, Bhagat and Mohanty, UNESCO, June 2013

## **Education not leading to employment**

Maharashtra has many institutions that give degrees but fail to create individuals who are good citizens and can be gainfully employed. This is very serious and needs urgent reforms.

## **Global Marathi**

Languages and cultures are being lost in a world that is increasingly coming closer. The dominance of a global culture and language will wipe out the Maharashtrian culture within the state boundaries in a matter of 10-15 years and leave an entity that has no soul. History has established and science has proven that communities that take pride in their identity and have a high self-worth rise and prosper. We must take lesson from this and stand upright in this clash of civilisations.

## **Divided society**

Social reformers like Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Prabodhankar Thackeray and others worked to unite us beyond the divisions of caste and politics; but today, we are divided along these lines. The present-day politics is responsible for these divisions. We must not allow this. We must unite and stand alongside each other.

## **Alcohol addiction**

Hundreds of thousand families are disrupted and broken as a result of this. Alcohol addiction is a disease that we must deal with firmly. This is one of the major causes of distress to women, even resulting in physical harm at times. Saving homes from this addiction must be one of the priorities for Maharashtra.

## **High crime rate**

The nature of crime is changing and its incidence increasing; however, our laws and crime administration remain unchanged. Our citizens must feel safe. The way forward is not through traditional methods, rather, we need to adopt new strategies, use modern techniques, invite the participation of people and also rethink our laws and systems.

## **Power shortage**

Without electricity, we cannot leap forward. The crisis in this sector has the potential to restrict

our growth. We must innovate and adapt quickly, changing our ways if necessary.

## **Drought**

Half of Maharashtra is drought prone; groundwater resources have already been tapped and are being heavily used. At the same time, a growing population and heavy migration that requires more and more water is bound to cause desertification of the state.

## **Water scarcity**

On what priority do we allocate our water and to whom? We have failed to reach a consensus and as a result, there are drinking water shortages, water reserved for irrigation is diverted to industries, and so on. We need to address this issue beyond petty politics and follow a commonly agreed code of conduct strictly.

## **Bollywood**

The film industry in Maharashtra is a wonderful employment generator and a big opportunity that needs to be harnessed.

## **Marathi: Language that ranks 15th in the world in terms of first-language speakers**

In a world where numbers count, the number of Marathi speakers is larger than the population of many countries. Why, then can Marathi not become an important global language? What can we do to make this happen?

## **History of a strong cooperative movement**

The cooperative sector in Maharashtra has a history of more than 100 years. The cooperative movement transformed many parts of Maharashtra. The prosperity it brought became the reason for its downfall. The cooperative movement became politicised and its leaders sought personal benefits from it. However, the spirit of cooperation became ingrained into our psyche. This is one of the unique characteristics of Maharashtra.

## **The centre of social movements**

Mahatma Gandhi used to call Maharashtra the home of social workers. Maharashtra has seen

many experiments in the social sector. Ours is a society that is socially conscious: it is in our genes, in our blood. How do we leverage this for our further development?

### **Rich tradition of theatre and literature**

We have an old tradition of arts, theatre and literature, be it the Abhang composed by saints, or the ovi sung on the grinding stone by Bahinabai. These compositions questioned traditions and provided thought leadership to our society. This tradition seems to have faded away. We need that sane voice that will question our actions.

### **Many national and international research institutes**

Many institutions that carry out fundamental research are based in Maharashtra but we have undermined their work and by neglecting their contribution, relegated them into a corner. This is a fault that we need to correct immediately.

### **Sahaydris – Bio-diversity hotspot**

This Western Ghats, or the Sahaydris, are home to many unique species of flora and fauna. Whether we exploit and finish them or conserve this rich bio-diversity is totally up to us.

### **Deep-rooted Panchayat system**

Maharashtra was one of the first states to have adopted the Panchayat Raj reforms. Though the spirit of these reforms was compromised in some cases, the Panchayat system was been implemented by and large across the state. We must capitalise it for better governance.

### **Educated women**

The wise, educated leadership of women in Maharashtra is well known, from the times of Rajmata Jijabai and Muktabai. Historically, women have participated in all spheres of life and even today, they are active in many different sectors. They form the backbone of our society and we stand to benefit from it even in the future.

### **Multi-faceted, multi-dimensional society**

The Marathi person is open and generous, willing to accept the new. We can easily merge with the global identity. This attitude will help us move to accept a new structure and adopt a new way of living.

This is how we are, in short.

The situation is serious; but it is not the first time that we are facing challenges. We have struggled and overcome them to rise above them. We have that capacity. That is the strength we have drawn from in writing this blueprint.

My dear Marathi brothers, sisters and mothers, Maharashtra summons you now; I hope you can hear its call. You must be ready to work hard, to give and contribute in this process of making Maharashtra our pride and the world's envy. This position will not be handed to us on a platter - we will have to work hard to achieve this goal. It is our hard work and sacrifice that will put Maharashtra on the world map and continue to keep it there. We must strive for it, and I hope to get your willing and active support to achieve this goal.

Jai Maharashtra!

Yours truly,

Raj Thackeray

While making this blueprint, we came across many horrifying facts about Maharashtra that made us realize the present condition of our state. Before we move ahead, we must confront these facts and remember how much we need to work to better our state.

60,000 farmers committed suicide in the last 20 years. That is an appalling 8 to 9 farmers every day.

Maharashtra has the most number of dams and the highest water storage capacity; yet, the lowest irrigation.

32.9% of the state's population does not have access to tap water.

46.9% households do not have toilets in their premises.

3.7 crores of the state's population is deprived of sewage facilities. Half the houses having this facility have open gutters.



48% of our women are anemic.

Out of every 3 babies born, 1 is born at home.

63% of our children under the age of 5 are malnourished.

50 lakh, that is 35% of our 1.5 crore children are malnourished; Annual child deaths are 80,000.

4 lakh people fall under the debt trap because they are unable to bear health care expenses.

Maharashtra has the largest number of deaths in police custody.

Maharashtra has the largest number of cognizable crimes.

Maharashtra has the largest number of unidentified bodies.

Maharashtra has the largest number of dacoity cases.

**This is the abridged version of the Maharashtra blueprint.  
The entire blueprint and all our study cannot be presented in a small  
booklet. To see the complete blueprint, do visit [www.mnsblueprint.org](http://www.mnsblueprint.org)**

## Quality of Life

Food for All

Drinking Water

Affordable Housing

Women Empowerment

Law & Order

Health

Sports

Child care

Primary Education

Employment

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Food. Water. Shelter. Employment.  
The basic needs of every citizen  
must be satisfied if we are to  
follow a larger dream. Only then  
can Maharashtra aspire to rise.

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# Long queues at the ration shops must end.

The Public Distribution System is in a total mess. Ration shops not only create artificial food scarcity but have also become centres of corruption and food adulteration. After hours of wait in long queues, the poor do not get sufficient and nutritious food grains from these shops.

This system needs to be completely restructured and overhauled. **One remedy for this would be to deposit the amount of subsidy directly into the beneficiary's bank account, and that too, in the bank account of the woman in the family wherever possible.** In Chhattisgarh, the Raman Singh government has implemented this scheme successfully for people below the poverty line. A number of changes brought about by this scheme at the grassroots level can already be seen.

As the amount of subsidy is deposited directly into the bank account, the food grains that are needed can be bought from open markets, thus eliminating the necessity of rationing shops. This will automatically put a stop to artificial food scarcity, adulteration and corruption at these shops.

The compulsion of buying limited quantities of food grains at the rationing shops will come to an end. Food grains can be bought from open markets in whatever quantities that are needed. The woman in the family will be able to buy food grains desired by her family members, with the necessary nutritional values.

In the open market system, a shopkeeper has to face competition. As a result, the proportion of food grains adulteration or selling of inferior quality food grains is negligible. This is why the direct benefit scheme can put an end to the cheating of the beneficiary at the hands of rationing shop owners.

**In regions where there are no rationing shops, this scheme can be made available in the weekly markets.**

The basic purpose of any government scheme is to enable the poor and downtrodden to live with self-respect. However, the rationing system has defeated this very purpose. It is for this reason that this scheme which gets the subsidies to the rightful beneficiaries while keeping their self-respect intact must be implemented.

# Every person in Maharashtra must get sufficient, pure water.

Every year, crops in Maharashtra get destroyed from lack of water. The woman in the family has to walk miles to fetch water. Children become sick from using impure water. It is not the scarcity of water that is the cause, but it is the lack of planning, and lack of political will.

While the issue of water becomes more and more serious, a few concrete steps need to be taken to remedy the situation.

**Here is a 15-point program for this purpose:**

1. If this issue is not attended in a timely manner, famine and unavailability of water may create a situation of total chaos in Maharashtra. Hence, we must start preparing for this right from this moment.
2. Every drop of water that falls in the form of rain on the soil of Maharashtra must be counted; its use must be planned. Water is the invaluable natural wealth of the state and it must be safeguarded and conserved. To keep the seriousness of famine to the minimum, a special law must be passed and a 'Maharashtra State Water Monitoring Tribunal' must be appointed.
3. Every house in the state must be provided with pure tap water.
4. Planning of water must be done based on each river basin. Each river basin has a certain capacity for storage of water. This has to be estimated and the development plan for each region has to be based on this capacity. Based on the capacity of available water, planning of how much population can be accommodated in a region must be done. Moreover, special efforts must be made so that the population in the region does not exceed this limit. This must be considered in

the regional plan.

5. Priorities for the water reservoirs of a dam must be in this order: drinking water, agriculture, industries.

6. Local governing bodies should be given complete freedom and powers to design their water supply schemes.

7. There should be a state level apex government organization in Maharashtra, which should provide complete training, public education and technical guidance. It will provide guidance to the local governing bodies in the particular region. This organization should have offices based in each river basin. There is supposed to be a provision for this in various water management schemes. If it does not exist, it should be made.

8. Participation of local beneficiary groups as well as private partners in water planning and storage schemes should be encouraged.

9. A rain measurement center should be constructed in the catchment-area of every river basin.

10. Up-to-date mapping of water pipes needs to be done.

11. Meters should be used and water charges determined for distribution of water. A computer-based system should be used for efficient use and distribution of water.

12. Conscious efforts should be made for encouragement, training and creating awareness for conservation of water.

13. Scientific experiments of artificial rains and purification of sea water should be encouraged.

14. Water purification projects should be operated diligently and immediate disciplinary action should be taken against officials who show negligence in this regard.

15. A water audit of the state should be carried out every year. This audit report should be published and be made publicly available.



# There must be all-out efforts to conserve every drop of water.

**60% talukas in Maharashtra fall under the rain shadow region and 26% of the country's drought prone area is in Maharashtra. Unless we plan our water resource well, Maharashtra will have to face the challenge of compulsorily rehabilitating 40% of its population. This is extremely serious. All-out efforts to conserve and store every available drop of water are imperative.**

1. The Jijau Mata Farm Ponds Scheme should be implemented.
2. The entire funds of the Employment Guarantee Scheme should be used for constructing farm ponds, village ponds and small bunds.
3. Gram Panchayats must be supported locally to implement these schemes through people's participation.
4. If this scheme is implemented properly, Maharashtra may be able to overcome the drought situation in 10 years. Water scarcity will end, and moreover, soil will be conserved.

From now on, no new city will be allowed to come up on the backwaters of any dam.

# Drought is the most serious problem facing Maharashtra.

All political parties must forget their differences and join hands to tackle this issue.

## **What complicates the issue of water further?**

1. Maharashtra is receiving lesser and lesser rains – or at least, the rains are erratic.
2. Water on land is evaporating faster, because of global warming.
3. Population is growing. More and more people from other states are relocating in Maharashtra, causing increasing demand for water.
4. As we progress, we shift to modern lifestyle, which automatically means an increase in the need of water.
5. We need more power for domestic consumption as well as industries. This automatically means that more water is needed to generate power. More water is also needed to grow more food.
6. The day is not far away when we may be forced to relocate villages in certain regions in Maharashtra because of lack of water. Of Maharashtra's total geographical area of 3,08,000 sq. km., drought prone area is 1,94,473 sq. km.

## The need of water in the state will double by 2050.

## **What will happen if we do nothing?**

1. Parts of Maharashtra will turn into deserts. It will take hundreds of years to bring the land back to its original condition.
2. There will be need of an estimated 70% to 80% additional water reserves in the Krishna and

Tapi basins.

3. In times of water shortage, cleanliness and hygiene lose their priority, leading to a higher incidence of disease among children. Women and girls will have to walk even longer distances to find water. This will affect their education and overall health significantly.

4. Land under agricultural production will reduce further, affecting Maharashtra's ability to grow sufficient food for its growing population. This will lead to food scarcity.

More and more people will fall under the poverty trap, and escaping this trap will become harder.

5. Livestock population will decrease. One can already signs of this.

6. People will flock to cities in large numbers, stressing further the infrastructure in these cities, a phenomenon already experienced by many cities in Maharashtra.

7. A large part of Maharashtra falls under raid shadow region. Climate change and rise in global temperatures has also affected the rainfall pattern, causing flooding in areas with high rainfall and frequent drought in other areas. In such situations, every drop of water must be saved and accounted for.

One cannot leave this for the government alone to do. The urgent need of the day is for a 'mass campaign' that addresses this burning issue in Maharashtra.

## **What needs to be done?**

1. Unauthorized lifting of water from irrigation projects should be prohibited.

2. There should be control over use of underground water. The government has already passed a law for this; it must be implemented rigorously.

3. Rules need to be formed about where, how and why water can be used and by whom. Priorities for water usage need to be determined. For example, industries or power projects may not need pure, drinkable water; they could use processed waste water instead. Such alternatives should be explored.

4. Crops requiring less water must be planted; farmers must be encouraged to harvest such crops at least until the situation of scarcity prevails. Crops requiring large quantities of water could be taxed so that farmers are discouraged from harvesting them.

5. Treating this as an emergency for Maharashtra, consensus must be reached to arrive at a list of

crops that are to be permitted. Failure to do so may further aggravate the situation.

6. Soil moisture could be effectively used to irrigate crops. The techniques to do this must be explored. Agricultural practices need to be changed in accordance.

7. Watershed development programs that slow down the running water, allowing it to percolate below the surface, must be implemented rigorously. Maharashtra has seen a number of great experiments in this field that demonstrate water conservation in drought regions.

These experiments must be scaled up. Lessons must be drawn from these experiments and a campaign to promote them must be initiated.

8. Seeds which can withstand drought conditions should be developed. For this, research in biotechnology should be encouraged.

9. Rules of water utilization should be made more stringent in drought prone talukas. The first priority in these areas should be given to drinking water, followed by agricultural use. Water supply to industries in these areas must be discontinued immediately, at least till availability of water improves.

10. Each and every village in these drought prone talukas must work on watershed development. The program of water conservation must be implemented. The central government has provided assistance for this, but an increase in these funds should be demanded. Also, there are a lot of Employment Guarantee Scheme funds lying unused with the Maharashtra government. Not only this, but more funds flow in every year. These funds can be utilized for people to work in their own farms or watersheds. No separate funds are necessary for this task.

11. For this purpose, watershed committees, which exist only on paper at this moment, must be made functional. If they are run like a business enterprise, if financial and administrative discipline is inculcated in them, then they can introduce and operate many schemes of credit supply. At the same time, vigorous efforts need to be made with these committees to make trading of fertilizers, seeds or insecticides and pesticides free and more transparent. Rules for share capital and a share in profits in the names of members will also need to be introduced.

12. In urban regions, rainwater harvesting and planning must be made mandatory for all new construction projects. The Chennai Municipal Corporation has made it mandatory that all construction projects with a height above 3 floors must have rainwater harvesting facilities. Such a rule should be implemented in cities like Mumbai as well.

# Self-owned and affordable housing should be right of citizens.

Housing is one of the basic needs of man. But experience around the world shows that a common man cannot get an affordable house unless and until the government intervenes. An affordable house is defined all over the world as a house which has sufficient private space and basic amenities (toilet, bathroom, tap water, electricity supply), and which is available at a rent or monthly installment equivalent to 30% of the total income of a family. Sufficient private space means 50 to 60 sq ft per person. Compared to this, the current housing situation in Maharashtra is absolutely horrifying. 41.3% population of Mumbai lives in slums. 41.3% houses in Maharashtra have only single rooms. 46.9% houses are without toilets. In such a condition, self-owned and affordable housing must be made a right of citizens, and the government also must take some firm steps in this direction.

1. Those living in Maharashtra over 2 generations and those in the lower income group must benefit from these schemes.
2. Instead of limiting the housing schemes to the state government and MHADA, there should be a separate and independent housing board in every district.
3. Proper areas of land must be reserved in the city development plans in all cities for construction of affordable houses [400 sq. ft (60%) / 550 sq. ft (20%) / 700 sq. ft (20%)]. If the land is in possession of private developers, they should be given special benefits and the land should be taken back from them.
4. The government should start a scheme of rented houses for those who cannot afford to buy houses. Rent should be recovered at a monthly amount equivalent to 30% of total family income, and after twenty years, the house should be transferred in the name of the tenant. The government must start a center providing guidance to citizens for availing finance for buying a house.
5. Consideration should be given to basic facilities such as schools, market place, hospitals etc. in the neighborhood while constructing houses.
6. Every city and town should have its own aesthetic policy, and for this, criteria should be determined for the design and shape of each house. These criteria must be compulsorily

observed while constructing houses in a government scheme.

7. If the government implements these schemes properly, it will be possible to realize the housing dreams of 50 lakh people in the next 5 years.

8. If the government implements these schemes properly, it will be possible to realize the housing dreams of 50 lakh people in the next 5 years.

## The Slum Rehabilitation Scheme must be implemented only by the Government.

The Slum Rehabilitation Scheme is a very good example of how just a handful of people can ruin a scheme meant to benefit the larger public. The scheme was launched so that people living in slums that existed before 1995 could have good houses. Unfortunately, certain builders encouraged formation of new slums in order to ensure the continuation of the scheme, thus defeating the very purpose. Builders resorted to malpractices – once a slum was formed, the residents there were provided accommodation elsewhere, and huge buildings were constructed on the plot where the slum existed. Many plots of land belonging to the state government, central government or other government bodies were taken possession of, bought and sold by them. In order to stop this, only the implementation of the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme must be in the hands of the government.

## Entrepreneurship must be encouraged among the local population through housing construction.

It is the government that should make efforts for providing self-owned and affordable housing to citizens. Provision of housing should be used creatively for employment generation and encouraging enterprising spirit among local population. It is the job of the government to ensure that any scheme must benefit public at large, rather than just a few people.

# Police must get priority in housing schemes by Mhada and all other Government housing schemes.

With very few exceptions, police colonies in Maharashtra are in a very bad shape. Police, who toil hard day and night every day, do not have a house they can call their own. This is a very unfortunate situation, and this must change. Police must get priority in housing schemes by MHADA and all other government run housing schemes.

# Project-affected must get free-of-cost housing in cities, and one person from each family must get a Government job.

We cannot just abandon the hundreds of thousands of people who gave up their land for various projects in the state. We owe these people, who gave up everything they had for the state.

1. Project-affected people in Maharashtra must get proper price for their land.
2. We suggest an innovative scheme for rehabilitation of the project-affected people. They must be given a better life and a permanent source of income. These project-affected people must be provided free of cost houses in the nearest city or town and one member of every family must be given a government job.
3. The Maharashtra Rehabilitation Act must be reviewed and it must be ensured that in future, there is no injustice done to any of the project-affected people.



# If a house or land is bought in the name of a woman, stamp duty and registration fees must be waived.

If a house or plot of land is bought in the name of a woman, stamp duty and registration charges for this purchase should be waived. Empowerment of women must not just remain on paper. A few firm, futuristic steps need to be taken to make it happen in reality. When a woman gets married and enters the house of her in-laws, she leaves behind her rightful house. Frequently, she is very insecure because she does not have any house or other property in her name. Today, out of every eight households in the state, one is entirely supported by a woman. In such a situation, there should be concrete plans for making women more empowered, by giving them rights of properties and wealth.

## Women's Education

Special and concerted efforts need to be made for education of women in the state. It is now clear that girls drop out of schools because of reasons such as the fact that the schools are away from home, or that there are no toilet facilities in schools.

1. Girl students from Zilla Parishad secondary schools should be provided bicycles.
2. There must be a toilet facility for girls students in every school and it must be kept clean. A special and separate mission will have to be undertaken to ensure this.

## Financial Independence for Women

It is necessary to provide training for financial independence for women, establish women's groups, provide support to and strengthen the organizations that provide financial assistance to women.

# Children must not be deprived of their parent's company: it should be the right of every child.

It is absolutely essential for children to have company of parents till the age of 6 years, and it is very beneficial for their growth. In the present times, women have to work and for this, they have to keep their children away from them for the whole day. The government too must play a role in the proper care and upbringing of children.

1. Maharashtra Child Care Act should be passed and crèches must be started in every government office in the state.
2. It must also be made compulsory for all the private industries and businesses to have crèches.
- 3. Half a bogey should be reserved in local trains for women travelling with their children.**
4. Maharashtra should take the lead in making such a law.

# The entire police system needs to be overhauled and improved from top to bottom.

**Compared to the crimes that are registered, the proportion of crimes that are actually proved is very small in Maharashtra. In this vast state, even today, decisions related to police forces are taken in the state police headquarters, instead of the district police headquarters. The total strength of police is negligible in comparison with the growing population, and the police forces lack modern equipments for crime investigation. This poor condition of the police forces needs to be changed completely.**

1. The police force needs to be decentralized and completely reorganized.
2. State-of-the-art institutions which will do research in crime investigation science and forensic science must be established.
3. Crime-related information and data of criminals at the national and state levels needs to be available at one place.
4. There will be special police forces for universities, and special police forces for industrial organizations. These police forces will have complete knowledge about the fields allocated to them, and also about the laws and needs of these fields. These police forces will be connected with the local police forces and will assist them in investigation of serious crimes.
5. Every vehicle in the state should have a GPS number plate. This will reduce the number of crimes. Moreover, it will also prove useful from the viewpoint of overall security. Of course, this cannot happen in just a day or two. Its implementation should be planned in a time-bound manner and completed within two years. The expenditure for implementing this should be financed out of the taxes which are recovered at the time of purchasing a new vehicle.

6. All the police stations in the states should be modernized with new technologies, and it should be ensured that they are equipped with wireless systems, usage of mobile apps, and state-of-the-art equipment.

7. Every police station will keep a continuous check on watchmen, contract labour, labourers who have arrived from outside, in the area under its jurisdiction. It should be ensured that records of all these persons are maintained up to date in the police station.

8. Every vehicle, train or bus arriving in Maharashtra from other states will be checked. Records of the persons who have arrived, who they are, why they have come, where they are going to stay also should be maintained. A separate division of the police force should be formed for this task.

9. Local para-police, who will work like watchmen, will be appointed and trained by the local police stations. They will be in direct contact with the local police stations, and their salaries will be paid out of contributions from local population. This will create employment for at least 10,000 to 15,000 people in Maharashtra (employment can be created in urban areas for 1 in about 500 to 1,000 households).

10. A few municipal councils and municipal corporations should be allowed to establish their own separate police forces on an experimental basis for, say, 10 years. If it is successful, it should be implemented elsewhere as well. Operating the entire police force in the state from a single office in Mumbai is now an obsolete system of police administration. So, by decentralizing the decision making process, the police force will be able to work more efficiently.

## The Judicial System should be simple, compact and easy for everybody to understand.

If rule of law is to be brought to Maharashtra, the laws will need to be rewritten in a manner which is simple and easy for everybody to understand. Only then will the law be able to reach one and all. The legal language should be made simple and uncomplicated. Also, every law should be amended according to changing times.

Some changes simply must take place:

1. Use of complicated legal language must be discontinued and it must be simplified and made

easy for everybody to understand.

2. Many of the laws from the British times have still been maintained and are being still used. These need to be reviewed.

**3. All the laws in the state should be brought together in Marathi.**

4. Just as with the Supreme Court, judgments passed by the High Court should be open for all to read. The legal language should be simplified and made easy for all to understand; deliberate and conscious efforts need to be made and experts appointed for this purpose if necessary.

**5. All the judgments passed should be in Marathi, so that they can be understood by all.**

6. According to changing times, certain special courts (such as cyber courts, university courts etc.) should be formed.

This will bring the rule of law to Maharashtra. Simple and easy laws will encourage people to abide by them.

## The Number Plate of every vehicle in Maharashtra must be connected by a GPS system.

In other countries, number plates of all vehicles are 'smart'. This must be done in Maharashtra as well. This will have certain benefits for us.

1. Vehicle thefts can be brought under control.

2. Vehicles running at speeds exceeding limits can be brought under control, thereby reducing the incidence of accidents.

3. It will be much easier to monitor vehicles entering Maharashtra from outside states. This will reduce incidents of unauthorized entries as well as crime rate.

### **X-ray machines should be used on state borders for checking vehicles**

It is necessary to check material brought in vehicles entering Maharashtra from outside states, and ensure that nothing undesirable or harmful is entering the state. For this, x-ray machines must be used at the state borders to check vehicles.

### **A watch must be kept on contract labour and watchmen**

In all industries and businesses, it must be made mandatory to provide information about the contract labour and watchmen employed, to the nearest police station. Also, only holders of the proposed employment cards must be given a chance to work.

# Every person in Maharashtra must have good health and physical condition. Health must be a priority subject for the state.

Health services are not only those which offer medical treatment for an illness. They are services that help prevent illness. And offer simple, easily available remedies in case of illness.

Remedies to bring in health independence cannot be superficial; conscious efforts are needed for it on the following points:

1. Conditions must be created, maintained and spread in the state, such that people will be able to live a healthy life.
2. Certain health-related issues must be resolved on priority, such as malnutrition and child mortality, health of women, malaria-polio-TB, mental health, freedom from alcohol abuse etc.
3. Health independence – it must be ensured that all people have affordable health services (consultation, treatment, medicines, and hospital facilities), there are treatment facilities near homes, and everybody has health insurance.
4. Corruption and malpractices in the medical field and fleecing of patients must be brought under control.

**Following eight suggestions must be implemented immediately, so that every citizen in Maharashtra is healthy:**

1. Each and every locality must have clean air, pure water, public hygiene, peace and quiet, outdoor facilities for recreation – gardens and playgrounds.
2. If the population in a region increases beyond a certain density, the frequency and speed of

spreading of communicable diseases increases among people in that region. To counter this, policies will need to be determined for regions where the population density is more than the limit.

3. There must be toilets, soak pits or a garden that uses waste water in the vicinity of every house.

4. There must be health centers near the residence of every person, which provide health services and treatment at affordable rates.

5. The policy should be 'Health for All'.

6. Every citizen must be provided a health card which contains complete information about his/her health, and it should be valid everywhere, so that he/she can take treatment anywhere.

7. On the same lines as in Tamil Nadu, there must be a "Maharashtra Drugs Corporation" where medicines can be bought at fair prices.

**8. There must be a generic drugs store for every 50,000 population.**

## **There must be a health centre at a distance that a mother carrying a sick child can cover easily**

Women have to walk long distances carrying sick children for treatment. This inconvenience and unnecessary physical hardship has to end. There must be a health center at such a distance from her residence, where she will be able to walk, carrying her ailing child for treatment. The health center must be well equipped with all the necessary drugs and medicines, and have qualified health service providers. These health centers will be connected with government hospitals in the nearest cities, so that doctors can be consulted whenever necessary.

## **Every city must have a stem cells bank**

A stem cells bank is the bank of the future. This bank will hold the key to good health for the coming generations. There must be a bank which will store the stem cells of every newborn baby in Maharashtra. These banks must be connected with government hospitals. Reuse of stem cells is a futuristic step, and Maharashtra must be the first state in India to do this.

## **Let's make sick bodies and minds happy**

In all government hospitals and health centers, Marathi festivals should be celebrated with abundance, to make the atmosphere joyful for patients.

## Our Ideas About Education

The present education system needs to be changed completely. There are lots of gaps between the education that is provided and the education that is needed. The structure as well as method of education needs to be changed. Free and mandatory education should be provided from the age of 6 to 14 years. Students in the age group 15 to 18 must be supported to decide their future path – whether they would like to opt for vocational courses or whether they would like to pursue higher studies. From the age of 18 years onwards, preparations for higher education should be done.

We insist that the system should be so flexible that after completing higher secondary education, any student can shift from one stream of knowledge to another. We are of the opinion that even though all of these things may not be within the jurisdiction of the state, strategic discussions must be held at the national level about this idea.

After the child is 6 years of age, government will determine the policy about his/her education. Before the age of 6 years, the child must be with his/her parents and learn from them. If this is not possible, after 4 years of age, the child may have education in playgroups or kindergarten schools with a certain minimum standard.

# Let's learn excellent English in Marathi medium schools

Now-a-days, parents are under the misconception that their children will not be able to speak good English and then they will not be able to withstand the competition in employment or profession, if they are not sent to English medium schools. Further part of this misconception is even worse: if their children are in Marathi medium schools, they will not be able to make progress. But the conclusion accepted all over the world tells us that any subject is best understood by a student if it is taught in his/her mother tongue. Sincere efforts must be made to dispel these misconceptions. Students in Maharashtra must learn only in Marathi and the fear of English in their minds must be dispelled.

1. The most important thing is that all facilities must be provided to enable the students to listen to and read excellent English.
2. Teachers who can teach excellent English must be employed.
3. Help of the society should be solicited here. Local citizens who can speak excellent English should be invited in schools to help make students' English excellent.



In future, generations of Marathi children who have an excellent command over English, and who will be able to withstand global competition should enter the fray.

## Vocational Education should gain status.

Vocational education enjoys a certain status in many countries. We too should make efforts to give vocational education its due status. Rather than insisting that all students must learn till graduation, technical education should be included in syllabus right from the 8th standard.

1. Institutes like the ITI should be improved and excellent technical education should be provided there.
2. It should be made compulsory for industries that children in a particular region should be trained with technical knowledge that is necessary in industries in that region, and only such local children are employed in those industries.
3. Courses like computer hardware and software education, mobile repairs which are necessary in current times should be taught to the students and their enterprising talents should be promoted.
4. Student should be freed from the present established limits of obtaining marks, and the confidence of living a good life should be inculcated in them, and they should be provided the necessary guidance in this direction.

## Model Marathi residential schools.

There must be schools in every district, which provide excellent quality education, which is based on good syllabi from all over the world. Such schools will provide new concepts to the other schools in the district. Some important parts of the syllabi of these schools should be taught via e-learning to the other schools in the district. Moreover, the best of teachers from these schools will visit the other schools in the district on a regular basis and communicate with the students. The proposed model school will play the role of a university for the other schools in the district.

## Even schools must undergo examinations and scrutiny.

Created out of the backing of bureaucrats and political leaders, private schools seem to be mushrooming everywhere. But there are big question marks about the quality of education provided in many of such schools. Frequently, it is found that despite paying astronomical fees, students do not get quality education. Strict action must be taken against these malpractices. All the schools will have to undergo mandatory quality tests within 3 years. Otherwise, their approval must be cancelled.

## Education must become free from donations.

Private schools and colleges have been literally fleecing the parents under the disguise of donations. Thousands of students are unable to have education, simply because their parents cannot afford to pay these huge donations. Strict action must be taken against these malpractices. In future, strict action must be taken against the directors of those institutes which are found to be collecting money in the name of donations, and moreover, the approval of such institutes must be cancelled.

## There should be catering colleges in different regions of Maharashtra.

If Maharashtra is to be global, the state must widen its view as well, and make it global. The state must communicate with the world and tell what it has to give to the world. Maharashtra must learn the best of things from the world. This can begin with learning the food practices and cuisines from various parts of the world. Institutes which will teach a variety of world famous recipes should be established in different parts of the state. Maharashtra's tourism industry will be hugely benefited from this, and young men and women from Maharashtra will have more opportunities to work in other countries. This will also help make Maharashtra more global.

## Encouragement to studying various art forms through arts schools and colleges.

In Maharashtra, encouragement should be systematically provided to learning various traditional as well as modern-day arts, such as painting, sculpture, make-up art for dramas and movies, stage management, as well as modern art forms such as computer designing with modern technologies. Moreover, liking for such art forms must be consciously cultivated in the society. Colleges teaching arts and research institutes which undertake research in arts must be established in different parts of Maharashtra.

**Students must be permitted to select subjects of their liking and inclinations and natural aptitude**

From 8th standard onwards, students must be allowed to select subjects which they like or for which they have a natural aptitude.

### **The government will open the window of knowledge from the outside world for you**

There is no facility in our education system at present, to know about what is going on in the world, after the end of formal education. Extramural education / training centers should be established in various cities, which will provide education / training in a wide variety of subjects, in addition to the traditional subjects of formal education. Short courses in various such new subjects should be made available in these centers. Anybody should be able to enroll in these courses, without any condition about eligibility – be it age, or educational qualifications. Maharashtrian people will become aware of the outside world, only if the government opens the window through which to view it.

### **Efforts must be made for personality development of youth**

The young generation of Maharashtra must be physically as well as mentally healthy. For this, every village must have a gymnasium and a library. Also, there must be a mini theater at every taluka place, where there should be facilities for viewing excellent documentaries on various subjects from all over the world. Personality development of young people will generate a new personality of Maharashtra.

### **Let schools be illuminated with eternal energy**

It has become nearly impossible to provide electricity for the whole day to schools in Maharashtra, which is already facing huge power cuts. To solve this long standing issue, schools should be encouraged to use perpetual energy supply sources such as solar energy. The necessary solar panels should be financed through local public participation.

## **Employment must be a right of every citizen in Maharashtra.**

Every citizen in Maharashtra must have education opportunities and employment. The job should be of the person's liking, based on his/her skills, and should fetch him/her fair emoluments for the job. Centers providing guidance to people in this regard need to be established. The present 'Employment Guarantee Act' should be implemented more effectively. Having said this, the policy must be 'Work for anyone who asks, returns according to the job, education for the job and training for skills'.

## **Employment and vocational assistance centers at district level.**

We are insistent about establishing employment and vocation assistance centers at district level.

Name of every citizen above 18 years of age should be registered in this center, and guidance should be provided here to those who want a job or wish to start a business.

It will be mandatory for all industries and businesses in Maharashtra to register names of all their employees in these centers. The centers will confirm that all rules and regulations are being complied with while employing people and that local people are not being sidelined in spite of having all the necessary skills. The center must have the power to take action in case any untoward practices are found in this regard.

If there is no employment found even 3 months after enrolment in the center, information of such a person will be obtained with the help of information technology, and representatives of a “special social cell” will approach that person to know what problems he/she is facing in finding employment. Social work organizations or CSRs of industrial organizations could perform this task.

Instead of treating educational institutes and employment or vocation as two different things, these two will be combined, so that the unemployment issue can be effectively dealt with by providing education/training necessary for employment or vocation.

This way, work can be ensured for every person in Maharashtra who wants to work.

# Every person must have an employment card.

Every person above 18 years of age in Maharashtra, whether he/she is working or not, must be provided an Employment Card.

1. Based on this card, detailed information about education, current employment, present emoluments, and his/her expectations about a job must be stored at every district place.
2. This employment card will be able to provide information about the unemployed local people available for employment at the time of recruitment in industries, and it should be binding that only persons holding these cards are employed.
3. Work is the right of every unemployed youth in the state, and this will be easily possible with the help of the employment card.

## **Infrastructure**

Transport

Electricity

Water

New Cities

Solid Waste

Waste Water

Open Spaces

Connectivity

Environment

Biodiversity

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An excellent road network. 24x7 electricity supply. Internet connectivity in every village. The next step is to provide the people of Maharashtra with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

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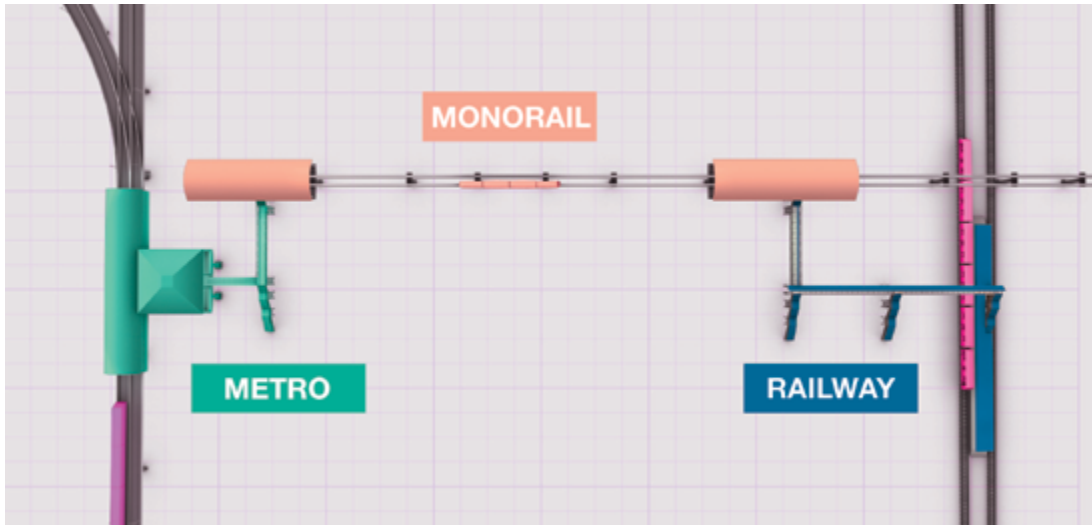
# Public transport system in Maharashtra must be completely restructured.

Traffic is an issue which is currently ignored, but it is the most serious issue. As on today, there seems to be no way out of this logjam, and yet, more and more new vehicles are plying on the roads every day. We are unable to provide proper parking arrangements for these vehicles, and so, they are parked haphazardly, indiscriminately anywhere on the road. In a number of places, the condition is such that fire trucks cannot reach a fire.

We see only one remedy to counter this serious problem: **In Maharashtra, in future, public transport systems will have to be strengthened and alternatives will have to be explored, so that private vehicles do not run on the roads as far as possible.**

“Transport” is now thought synonymous with “roads”. While it is not wrong, it is also not entirely correct. If we want to make progress, Maharashtra must have an extremely efficient (inexpensive and easily available, and safe) system of transport. This system – i.e., roads/railroads/metro rail/mono rail/water ways – connecting every village/settlement/city, must be utilized effectively.

Today, as sufficient system of transport is not available, hundreds of thousands of people risk their lives every day to travel or commute. In such circumstances, now we will have to reconsider the present transport system. Rather than insisting on any one means, all systems of transport should be considered as supporting each other.



A combined network of local trains, metro railway, mono rail, water transport, small sized buses need to be built in such a manner that without pressure on any single system, travelers should be able to travel very comfortably and at affordable cost.

## Parking issue must be viewed differently.

1. In cities like Mumbai, while the parking problem becomes more and more serious, a different view about it needs to be presented. **Underground parking arrangements can be considered below the larger playgrounds in Mumbai.**
2. If a family already has one vehicle and they are thinking about buying another one, they should intimate to the RTO in writing about where they are going to park their new vehicle.



# Maharashtra must have its separate Railway Board.

Maharashtra must have an efficient public transport needed for its progress. To make this system speedy and affordable, the state must have a network of railways. And to erect this network, Maharashtra must have its separate railway board. Railway projects which have been incomplete for a long time or projects which have not been started by the central government can be completed and operated by the Maharashtra State Railway Board. Such a railway network is extremely necessary for the progress of industries and agriculture in the state. And for this reason, Maharashtra must have its separate railway board, so that all the talukas can be connected by railways. These projects should be implemented through a partnership of the private sector and the state government, so that the railway network which is so much necessary for the industries can be set up and this will also make transportation much faster.

# The State Transport Corporation must be made profitable once again.

The ST is like an artery for Maharashtra. Every day, about 17,500 buses ply on roads in Maharashtra, and an estimated 80 lakh passengers travel in them. This transport system with 248 bus depots and almost a lakh of employees is in doldrums today. The accumulated loss of the Corporation is about Rs.1,000 crore, and it plagued with lack of vision, corruption and utter mismanagement. This must end.

1. The ST should never be a losing proposition. The mentalities and practices leading it into losses must be removed. For this, measures suggested below must be implemented immediately:
2. Political interference in the appointments of the president, managing director of the ST Corporation must be prohibited. Only such persons who know how to run it should be appointed on these highly responsible posts.
3. The tax on diesel must be refunded to the Corporation.

The passenger tax in the neighbouring states has been scrapped, or at least it is negligible. Maharashtra, however, has a 17.5% passenger tax. It must be waived.

4. The government owes almost Rs. 2,000 crore to the Corporation from various passenger schemes. This huge amount of money must be paid immediately to the Corporation.
5. The junior salary category should be scrapped and equal salaries must be paid for the same job.

6. All the employees must receive their salaries, various allowances and all other facilities accorded to them by various labour laws.
7. There are about 15,000 women employees in the Corporation. There are no special facilities for them, which are needed by women. These facilities must be provided. There must be crèches for the children of these women within the depot complexes.
8. If the tender process related to the ST courier services and advertising at the bus stops becomes more transparent, a major avenue of income may become available to the Corporation. It should be the motto of the ST Corporation to provide quality transport facilities to the passenger.

**We suggest to the government that in order to bring as much transparency as possible into the toll tax policy, lacunae in all the toll tax policies that have been followed so far should be studied, and a new people-oriented toll tax policy should be adopted.**

This policy will supersede all the previous policies and will be applicable to all the projects currently in operation.

1. There will be no cash transactions while collecting the toll tax. Every vehicle owner will be able to buy toll tax coupons of the amount of toll and a receipt can be obtained after these coupons are given at the toll booths. This will end the huge corruption which is there at present in this.
2. After this policy is adopted, toll tax will be payable only on new roads with four or more lanes. All the other projects of road construction, bridges etc. will be financed through taxes collected via the Motor Vehicle Act, passenger tax, levy on petrol and diesel, central government road fund, The Prime Minister's Village Road Scheme, and toll tax. After this policy becomes applicable, people will pay toll tax only once for each road.
3. Information of toll tax collected out of various taxes will be available for the public on the government website. Contractors will be compelled to carry out repairs of defective roads and provide various facilities. In any project, if the amount collected via toll tax is more than the amount that is arrived at after adding 20% profit, collection of toll tax will be stopped there.
4. Toll tax collection will be done electronically for new projects. Moreover, collection will not start unless project is completed according to the rules and regulations.
5. A 50% discount will be given to those people who are living within 10 km from a toll booth. Toll tax collection will be stopped on the same day when the project cost is recovered. The road

widening, strengthening, improvement jobs that will be done afterwards will be financed through the budget.

6. No persons must be exempted from toll tax. Audit of every contract and contractor by the CAG should be mandatory.

7. A “Consolidated Fund of State” should be formed for every contract. Toll tax collected should be deposited in this fund, and payments to the contractors and other money transactions should be made out of this account.

## One must be able to walk freely on skywalks.

Skywalks in Mumbai have become joints of hawkers, beggars and petty criminals. Police action must be resorted to against them and the skywalks must be cleared for the public. Also, the skywalks which have been constructed unnecessarily must be removed and roads should be cleared.

Some of the skywalks have been constructed at such a height that even though they are very convenient, public does not use them. Elevators should be used at such locations.

The history of human development was shaped by discoveries of different sources of energy. And the discovery of electricity as an energy source was an important milestone in the development of human society.

**Maharashtra, the most developed state in india, is at the forefront in the fields of industries, income, and standard of living etc. Yet, we have been unable to provide electricity for 24 hours a day to every village.**

The personal, professional, business and industrial loss because of lack of power is immeasurable. Wheels of the development of the state have also slowed down from lack of this basic infrastructure facility. If everyone in Maharashtra is to have opportunities of progress and development, we must become self-sufficient in the production of power.

**Here are a few concrete programs suggested:**

1. Power saved is power generated.
2. Use of smart grid – Monitoring of power consumption + reduction in power leakages and

power thefts + management of demand for power + inclusion of decentralized electricity generating units into the grid + improving quality of power. Decentralized electricity generating units based on alternative power sources can be connected to this grid and power consumers can become power sellers.

3. Micro grids must be promoted.
4. Use of decentralized, clean alternative sources.
5. Encouragement to sell power in the open market.
6. Removing lacunae in the power tariffs.
7. Prioritized disinvestment of state power companies.
8. Designing a special program for attracting private, as well as foreign industrialists in the power generation industry in the state.

## **The power system in Maharashtra should be connected with a smart grid**

A smart grid means a computer-operated power distribution system.

When power is generated anywhere in the country, the power is supplied to the power consumer via a grid. Grid means a network which connects all the power generation projects with the power distribution system. In the computer age, when this grid becomes 'smart', we are greatly benefited. The smart grid identifies locations where more/less power is being generated, and where there is more/less demand for power. Accordingly, it calculates how much power will be available from where, and who is going to consume how much power.

Because of this, when there is a problem in supply of power, rather than the entire network collapsing, the grid decides to switch off only specific parts of the network.

It is possible to connect small power generators. For example, if a housing society decides to erect a small solar energy project on its terrace, the project will satisfy the society's power needs, and moreover, it can send the excess power generated to the grid and satisfy someone else's need of power. In other words, the consumer becomes the producer in such cases.

Alternative sources of power generation become available and can be connected with the grid.

It becomes easier and simpler to determine power tariffs. Rates can change according to the need and consumption of power, and a fair rate can be obtained while buying or selling power in the open market. Moreover, a power consumer can reduce his electricity expenses by using more power while power tariffs are low. This also results in saving of power.

This helps in improving the overall efficiency of power generation and distribution system.

# Experiments of power generation by small private entities should be encouraged.

Today, Maharashtra has to live with a power shortage of about 5000 MW to 6000 MW. People in Maharashtra are badly affected by power shortage and the industries also suffer. As a result, many small and large industries are leaving Maharashtra to relocate in other states. It is for this reason that experiments of power generation by small private entities must be encouraged.

1. Such attempts should be issued permissions via 'Single Window Scheme'.
2. All such projects, whether it is power generation from waste or solar energy, must get all permissions via 'Single Window Scheme'.
3. Small attempts at power generation by large housing development projects, IT parks etc. must be promoted.
4. The government should give some tax subsidies or allowances to such entities that operate these projects. Rather than being totally dependent on the state government for power, if there is public participation in power generation, such efforts must be encouraged.

# Decentralized urbanization – let's shape urbanization differently.

Instead of defining urbanization in the manner of large cities like Mumbai or Pune, cities of a different nature should be created.

1. We propose development of 4,126 small modern towns of 10,000 population and 142 large modern towns of 50,000 population. In addition, we propose 59 small cities of 5 lakh population and 36 large cities of 10 lakh population.
2. Planning of these towns must be done at the levels of local municipal councils and municipal corporations only.
3. While planning each town or city, all factors must be considered comprehensively, such as opportunities of employment/industries available, water requirements, electricity supply, schools, hospitals, growing urbanization etc.

4. Infrastructure facilities such as buses, railways which are necessary for the people to commute to and from the city must be considered, and planning for them must be done.
5. The local administration and local government must be put in charge of planning rather than depend on the state or central government.
6. Taxes collected by the municipal councils or municipal corporations must be used only for the needs of their own city.
7. The uncontrolled expansion of large cities must be arrested and each city must be made self-sufficient.
8. In many cities in Europe, rivers flowing through them are used for transportation. In fact, a city like Venice is completely dependent on water transport. In Maharashtra too, some cities like Pune have rivers flowing through them. These rivers should be used creatively for transportation.

## Controlling Migration in Maharashtra.

Entrants from other states into Maharashtra must be asked the reason for entry, duration and location of their stay before being allowed to enter the state.

## Dumping grounds must be far away from cities.

Huge quantities of waste – solid, dry as well as wet waste – are generated in cities every day, because of our modern lifestyle. Moreover, increasing quantities of e-waste are also added to it, and we have no facilities anywhere for its disposal. Waste collected daily is dumped on a dumping ground outside the city. Many times, such dumping grounds are found to be situated near residential areas, which cause untold problems for these unlucky residents all the time. So, dumping grounds must be far away from cities.

Also, a separate railway as an alternative for carrying waste in large metropolises like Mumbai should be considered. If such a separate railway is possible, the waste collected can be carried and dumped in a place which is far away and completely isolated from residential areas.

# Telecommunication.

1. Though there is a specific central policy on this issue, Maharashtra too should have an independent policy for the telecom field.
2. Also, special efforts must be made to create Wi-Fi facilities as much as possible in Maharashtra.

## Every village must be connected with wi-fi.

**The world is becoming smaller and smaller because of the progress in technology. It is now very easily possible to communicate any knowledge or information from anywhere to anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds. Maharashtra too must reap the benefits of this revolution in technology.**

1. Every village and settlement in Maharashtra must be connected with Wi-Fi technology. Gram Panchayats, school, health centre must be connected with high speed internet connection.
2. All the villagers must be able to complete their work with government officials over the internet. Students must be able to have the best education via e-learning.
3. A patient approaching a village health center must be able to communicate with specialist doctors in the city.
4. Internet revolution must reach every village and settlement in Maharashtra.

# Maharashtra must adopt the route of science for becoming rich and progressive.

To make Maharashtra rich and progressive, adoption of science and technology is imperative. Genetics, nano-technology, robotics and information technology – these four branches of science are going to revolutionize the world in the near future. Maharashtra must be at the forefront in these fields.

1. Science and technology parks must be established in major cities in Maharashtra, for basic research in these fields.
2. An atmosphere conducive to research must be created and maintained for researchers in Maharashtra as well as the world, to work there.
3. The research done here must be included in the school and college syllabi.
4. Maharashtra must be the engine to drive the country's scientific research and intellectual capability.

# Maharashtra must become the Mecca of scientific research.

Maharashtra is well known for its intellect, but unfortunately, from lack of good opportunities, thousands of highly intelligent and highly educated people go to other countries in search of good opportunities, every year. This is a very serious loss for us, and this brain drain must be stopped.

1. Our policy should be to get whatever is the best in the world, be it anywhere. For this, a central organization under the leadership of great, famous scientists should be formed. This organization will monitor research done in the world in various fields.
2. This organization should play a leading role in making research agreements with various top universities and research institutes all over the world.
3. The basic research being done in agriculture, education, health etc. should be brought out of the labs and applied in the real life.
4. Rather than youngsters from Maharashtra going to other countries for research, intelligent youth from all over the world should come to Maharashtra. For this reversal of roles, sufficient funds must be made available to universities for research.





Man is an integral part of the environment. The cycle of nature has been undergoing changes because of the changing lifestyle of man. Man must not disturb the balance of environment. He must adjust his lifestyle with nature. This responsibility is not of any one board or the government alone, but of every individual. Until now, man has been taking away from nature. Now, we must make all-out efforts to undo the damage.

## What Needs To Be Done?

1. Every citizen must be alert and monitor his/her area. It will be the complete responsibility of local citizens to keep their surrounding areas in an appropriate manner. If there is a river in the area, they will decide about how the river should be conserved. Together, the citizens and the local governing body will handle the responsibility of conservation of all the natural resources in the village or town. Any development projects that may be planned in the area will have to be accepted by locals after serious consideration about their adverse effects on the environment. No project will be given permission unless solutions to address any adverse effects are identified and their implementation ensured. It will be the decision entirely of the local people about which projects to allow in their area.

2. While developing a region, consideration must be given to the capacity of the natural resources present there.
3. The role of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should be for monitoring, technical assistance and giving suggestions regarding rules and regulations.
4. Every industrial center must keep the pollution in its area under control. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should provide the technical assistance and training necessary for this.
5. Conscious efforts are needed to improve the productive capacity of land.
6. Monitoring through public participation at the local level should be encouraged. In a village, town or city, where there are natural resources, such as a lake, forest, a mine etc., the local people should have the right over such natural resources. They should have the right to decide about what to do about or how to use these natural resources. They will be able to exercise this right through the local governing body.
7. Frequently, many areas have decayed because of pollution or indiscriminate human interference. Such areas should be identified and conserved, so that natural disasters such as the one that happened in Malin village can be avoided.

## The Sahyadri mountain range must be declared as Biodiversity zone.

Mother Nature has literally showered many natural gifts in many areas of Maharashtra. Biodiversity in the Sahyadri mountain ranges is one such invaluable gift of nature. UNESCO has declared it a world heritage. We must preserve and conserve this heritage for our future generations, and this is the reason why we must declare this whole region as a biodiversity zone. And so, a very large biodiversity reserve park must be created in this area.

This biodiversity in the Sahyadri mountain range must be brought before the world with the same zeal which was shown in the case of the biodiversity in the Amazon basin in South America. Conscious and concerted efforts must be made to develop the mountain range as an environment friendly tourist area. A biodiversity research center must be established in this region. Students' study tours should be arranged to inculcate the importance of biodiversity in the future generations. Films based on the biodiversity in the region must be made a part of school and college syllabi.

## **Governance**

Empowering Local Bodies

Voluntary Financing

Mayor-in-council

Citizen Participation

Centre-state Relations

State Tax Policy

Digital governance

Law Commission

Sub-national Diplomacy

Regional Imbalance

Adivasi Development

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Governance that constantly reviews  
its laws and policies. Governance  
that takes bold decisions and  
adapts itself to new challenges.

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# Municipal corporations, Gram Panchayats must have more finances for their development works.

For a prosperous and developed Maharashtra, it is necessary to devolve decision-making to the local government bodies and to financially empower them.

1. Gram Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations must have the right to have their own policies that are appropriate for their village, town or city.
2. They should not have to depend on the center or state governments for finances.
3. Development works in villages and cities can only be carried out smoothly if the local bodies have financial autonomy.

## **‘Maharashtra State Local Government Guidance Centre’**

In decades to come, the affairs of the state will be more and more devolved. It is a welcome change towards a strong and matured (stable) democracy. There must be a guiding institute to guide these institutions to encourage participation of the people. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a Maharashtra State Local Government Guidance Centre.

1. This centre will recommend various ways to raise finances and consistently try to regularize their work.
2. It will provide training for running the local bodies smoothly.

3. The law must also authorize this centre to supervise the local government bodies.

Beyond voting, people should participate in Gram-Sabha and Area Sabha

Though voting is an important part of democracy, people should participate beyond it. According to law, it is mandatory to conduct Area Sabha in cities and Gram-Sabha in villages. As per law, citizens must express their opinions on local issues as well as on the various development programs conducted. Yet, this law has not been implemented and needs to be put in practice. It is necessary to take progressive efforts to maintain and enhance the public faith in the government. In addition, it is also necessary to pay attention that there will not be any shortage of funds at Gram Panchayat and at the ward level.

## Development of the Adivasis.

1. Adivasis from Maharashtra have migrated to cities in search of employment. In order to design a development program for them, it is necessary to have exact details of their native villages and their total population. It is also important to keep the records of all such adivasi groups and tribes.

2. It is necessary to provide employment opportunity to each and every adivasi in their own village.

3. The rate of child mortality in these villages is disturbing and it needs special attention.

4. It is necessary to make arrangements where adivasis can take education in their mother tongue. We must design such education policies.

5. It is necessary to provide them training to establish such cottage industries, which depend on agricultural and forest products and do not harm the environment.

6. It is necessary to provide them training for effective implementation of self-rule acts for adivasis and joint forestry laws.

7. There are some social organizations working with the adivasis in Maharashtra. Their experiences play an important role when we think about the development of this area, it is necessary to involve such organizations in the development of adivasis.

8. Instead of mere rehabilitation, we should encourage their active participation in decision-making in all development-related issues.

# Adivasis will be the owners of the forests.

The forest laws were made by the British government for protecting flora and fauna. As a result, the rights of the forest were taken away from the adivasis. The British government did not wish to uplift the conditions of the adivasis neither did they wish to create social awareness among them. British government did not want adivasis to come together. This forest act did their job! The 1864 'Forest Protection Act' was created with this specific purpose. The British government took control over forests under the pretext of protection of the forest and robbed the forests. Adivasis lost their hereditary rights due to this extreme Forest Protection Act.

Unfortunately, there is not much difference in this condition even after 65 years of Independence. Whether it was British government or current Forest Officers, they all have robbed the forests. However, adivasis consider these forests to be their mother. Therefore, they never snatch or destroy these forests for their selfish requirements. It is necessary that the slogan of the village Mendha Lekha of Gadchiroli i.e. "In Delhi and Mumbai are our governments; In our village, we are the Government!" (दिल्ली-मुंबईत आमचं सरकार, आमच्या गावात आम्हीच सरकार!) must echo in all the villages, towns and cities. As per the Forest Regulation Act 2006 by central government, the respective village has the right to protect the forest, control over the forest resources and very important right to use forest resources up to some extent for livelihood. Mendha Lekha village of Gadchiroli was the first village to receive this right.

Maharashtra government should work for the effective implementation of this law. It is necessary to treat Adivasis with respect and not as outsiders.

# Visits of citizens to Mantralay must end.

People from all over Maharashtra from small towns and villages visit Mantralay for petty works. As a result, they waste lot of money and time.

1. Henceforth, it should be possible to do all work at district and taluka level.
2. It is necessary that all the departments of the State should be connected through Wi-Fi and instead of using hardcopies or files regarding Mantralay work, quick decisions should be made using information technology.
3. It is necessary to convert tenders into e-tenders for transparency in the work.
4. It is necessary that all the required industrial permissions must be sanctioned at the district level without having to knock doors in Mantralay.

## Mayor should represent the city, and not one ward!

In 21st century, the problems of the city are getting more complicated. Thus, competent and capable leaders are required for solving these problems. In the current scenario, Mayor has become a showpiece and many issues are lying pending at the desk of commissioner and the standing committee. The Mayor should have more rights; he must be directly elected by the people in order to make the best use of experience and knowledge of excellent competent citizens.

This Mayor will be guardian of that particular city and he will have the appropriate awareness of the local problems. All the important decisions should be taken under his guidance.

It is our suggestion that this practice should be implemented on a trial basis in small municipal corporations and municipal councils of Maharashtra for next 10 years. The people of that city will directly elect the Mayor and he will be accountable to those citizens. Mayor will run the affairs of the city with the help of experts and other experienced citizens. In addition, there will be a general



body of corporators and here the Mayor will be accountable to the corporators elected by the people. Hence, in real sense it is necessary that Mayor should be the guardian of the entire city and not of a single ward.

## **Tribunal is must to settle internal disputes**

Some problems are tough to resolve. Some are related to emotions and some related directly to financial matters. For example, farmers from two villages fight over the issue of water. There is difference of opinion between two government departments. Both might be right. Rules and regulations are not clear or even if they are, they are perceived differently. Thus, it is not right to take the issues to the court every time. Sometime, legal recourse further complicates the dispute. Many complicated and rigid problems can be solved with the help of a dialogue and by listening to each other carefully. It is necessary to establish a committee to solve such problems. This committee will act like a tribunal. This body will consist of various experienced people like those from government bodies, judiciary, socially recognized individuals and those whose opinion has lot of importance and respect. They will try to reduce the difference by having a dialogue with everyone and try to resolve difficult problems. They will give instructions to the government and will find a solution accepted and approved by all.

## **Five requirements: 5 cards**

If government has all the required information of every citizen, then it will be easy to take care of each one and everyone can be provided with a suitable opportunity for progress. For this, we wish to implement a program that consists of providing different cards for the five different stages of life to the citizens of Maharashtra.

1. In Maharashtra, every pregnant woman will be provided with a card as soon as her name is registered. This will help to understand that proper care is been taken before the delivery. This card will be termed as 'Care Card'.
2. After the birth of the baby, the same 'Care Card' will be converted to 'Health Card'. It will have all the required information of the child's health. This card will be valid for six years and it will be termed as 'Health Card.'
3. When the child completes six years, the same card will be converted into 'Education Card'. It will be valid till 18 years of age.
4. Then the same card will be converted into 'Higher education- Employment card'. It will be valid until 60 years of age.

5. Fifth card will be termed as 'Senior citizen card'. Detail information of all the senior citizens of the state can be gathered through this card. For ex., provision of good and affordable health services, staying facilities, etc and this information will be provided to the government. These records will help the government to create facilities and design long-term policies for senior citizens.

## People's money for people's projects

The need of a library in the village, the school wall that needs to be built, a swimming pool in the city, a garden and many such small things remain unnoticed for years. The funds collected in the form of tax by the local governments are always insufficient. In addition, the central and the state government pay no heed to the demands. As a result, many good projects remain in the books. People in some countries have realized that government cannot reach everywhere and therefore they started completing some small projects by collecting funds from the people. In Rajasthan, the village head Ms. Chhavi Rajavat has implemented many small projects from funds raised by people, for example building toilets and lakes for the farming. Thus, completing projects in this manner is going to be the need of the time and Maharashtra should take steps in this direction. In coming days, citizens should participate in projects that stand to benefit larger society and citizens should have the rights over these projects. The idea of projects made by the people, for the people from the funds collected from the people, must be promoted.

1. Local administration after knowing expectations of the citizens should select projects that are pending due to shortage of funds or due to delays of funds from the central or the State government or those projects where fund support is not possible from the Center.
2. By encouraging the fund raising and people's participation, the tender process, the cost of the project and the time required for the completion of the project , all these facts should be transparently shown to the public.
3. The balance sheet of the funds collected should be open to all.

## The subjects directly affecting the state must be handled by the state itself.

After Independence, three different lists were prepared regarding which decisions were to be taken – the Centre's list, where the decisions by the Centre would prevail; a State list, where the State had the authority to take decisions; and a third, concurrent list where Centre and State have collective authority. After the 73rd and 74th Amendments, however, Panchayats and local administrative bodies were given more rights even as the old lists continued to exist. Why is it that matters like maintenance and protection of forts and forests are to be controlled by the

Centre? Are we not capable of taking care of our own forts and forests? To make changes in these lists and to allow the states control over such subjects, a decision needs to be made at the national level. This must be discussed in the parliament. We are sure that Maharashtra cannot progress if these changes are not made in the lists. Therefore it is necessary to follow-up this matter at national level.

# Tax policy must be revamped.

Today, the citizens as well as the businessmen in the state are paying many different kinds of taxes, for example, income tax, sales tax, service tax, octroi, stamp duty etc. Maharashtra is paying a huge number of sums in the form of taxes. Yet the facilities received by the citizens of Maharashtra against the tax paid by them are very nominal. And due to excessive burden of taxes, the common person in Maharashtra has very less amount of money left for his own expense. This in turn is also affecting the businesses and the industry in Maharashtra.

1. It is necessary to have simple tax policies that do not burden the common people and businesses.
2. It is necessary to collect all the taxes under one single roof.
3. State and the Local Administrative Body should receive maximum share of the tax collected from within the State.
4. Tax collected at the local and state level is deposited with the centre and a nominal sum comes back in return for various schemes; instead, it is necessary that after the deduction of funds required for the development works of the Local Administrative bodies and the State only the balance amount be deposited with the Centre.
5. A developed state like Maharashtra can lend money in the form of loan for development works to other undeveloped states.
6. It is necessary that citizens must know the details of how their taxes are being spent; moreover, a large proportion of the amount raised through taxes must be spent in the state itself.

# Ending regional imbalance in the state!

1. It is necessary to have devolved decision-making to put an end to regional imbalance in the state of Maharashtra. For the same the current planning process needs to be revised.
2. To increase the industry and business in every district it is must to revise and improve the tax structures.
3. Like State, every district, with a view to provide maximum profits to its citizens should have independent business policies.
4. Every district must have an independent international trade policy. For ex., the farmers from Amravati or Nagpur districts should be able to sell their special products like oranges and cotton directly in the international market. For this, the stringent policies of the Centre must change and local farmers must be able to sell their produce in the open markets.
5. There are unlimited business opportunities in the state due to privatization and globalization. These opportunities must reach the young generations in underdeveloped areas. These youngsters should be able to take benefit of these opportunities and thus vocational education must be made available to them in their own areas. Similarly, there should be a creative thought for what other opportunities can be created at local level. For example – Districts that face drought problem but have bright sunlight can be considered for establishing solar power generation project. International investments can be encouraged by setting up chains of greenhouses.
6. It is necessary to study the weather, agriculture, culture, traditions, manpower, available work skills, traditional business of every district of Maharashtra, setting up policies for all these factors, and to encourage its prosperity, the right to decide its business policies must be allowed at district level. Specific goals and independent policy of each district must be based on all the above factors. This will lead to creation of innumerable opportunities that will help the local people to develop themselves and their businesses. This will lead to overall development of Maharashtra.

# Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's first day in power will be the last day for any new slum in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's first day in power will be the last day of any new slum in Maharashtra. Currently maximum open spaces in Maharashtra are captured by slums (thanks to) with the support of government officers and corporators. These slums are the dwelling spots of intruders and they are making our city ugly. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, as a political party, will take a strict stand on this issue. It is must to register a criminal complaint against respective ward officers and corporators for raising any new slum in the city. To make Maharashtra a beautiful state it is necessary to take strict actions against slums.



## **Growth Opportunities**

State Industrial Policy

State Trade Policy

State and Markets

Agriculture

Tourism

Higher Education

Vocational Education

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Industries. Tourism. Herein lie the seeds of development of Maharashtra. All we need are excellent policies and a conducive environment.

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Maharashtra must get special recognition as an 'industrial state'. We will follow this demand in both the houses of parliament and in discussions in national forums.

**Maharashtra must have an independent business policy of its own, designed for its own benefit.**

Out of all the foreign investments that come in our country, 25% are in Maharashtra. The most suitable environment for the industry is this state. Yet many times the economic progress seems to slow down due to some policies of the Central Government. A progressive state like Maharashtra cannot afford to lose any single opportunity of progress in this period of globalization.

For that-

1. Maharashtra must have an independent trade policy.
2. The state must have its own trade chamber, which will help the state to do business freely with different countries and industrial groups.
3. It is necessary that agricultural products of Maharashtra should be linked to global markets. There must be Agro-produce Trade Union that will protect the farmers from the export prohibition policies of the Centre and it will help the agricultural products of the state to get global markets.
4. It is necessary that every district of the state must have independent trade policy to eradicate regional imbalance.
5. The trade organizations of every district must be directly linked with Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and should try to make themselves more and more open to exports.

# Let us spread and promote businesses in every district.

**Industries have not moved beyond Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nasik, Nagpur and Kolhapur. The development of the state is not complete unless every district of Maharashtra becomes an industrial center.**

1. The state must consciously accept the policy of decentralised industrialization.
2. All permissions required for establishing new business must be available at the district level.

It is necessary to provide facilities like electricity, roads, which are required for industrial areas from private and government expense.

3. It is necessary that the local vocational institutes must provide the human resource required for the industries.
4. It is necessary to connect every district of the State through railways, as it will facilitate the transportation of people and industrial goods.
5. Every district in Maharashtra is suitable for some specific industry. Therefore, every district at its own level must have its own independent industrial policy. In future, every district of Maharashtra must be known for its own special industry.

# There has to be a Commerce Representative of Maharashtra in every country.

In the world of globalization, Maharashtra needs to be connected with all developing countries for opportunities in business, investments, education, research, etc.

1. The educated Marathi citizens residing in the big cities of different countries can work as commerce representatives of the State in that country.
2. They will work to attract opportunities from various fields of business, investment, education, research towards Maharashtra.
3. Whether it is onions of Nasik, mangoes of Konkan, oranges of Nagpur, cotton, footwear (chappals) of Kolhapur or the Indian Cinema, Maharashtra has the capacity to influence the international markets of the world. The commerce representatives of Maharashtra must help the agriculture and other products of Maharashtra to get an international platform.

## Products from Maharashtra must become global brands.

It is possible that chappals of Kolhapur, grapes of Nasik, oranges of Nagpur, bananas of Jalgoan, flowers of various states, Maharashtrian recipes can become global brands. We must take our various products to world trade exhibitions. It is necessary to have an apex institute, which will prepare the traders in the matters like required criteria, packaging, and marketing techniques required to sell the products at international level. At the same time, it is also necessary that these products must get international markets with the help of proposed commerce representatives of Maharashtra.

# Nasik must become the largest exporter of Agro Products in India.

The agricultural products like onion, grapes and vegetables are one of the best products to gain name in the world market. It is must to provide global markets to these products. Nasik alone can provide onion and grapes to entire Asia.

Ratnagiri must be the study hub for marine life.

The 700 km Konkan sea shore can change the future of Konkan. It is must to encourage fishing industry and marine life research and education center in Ratnagiri to find new development opportunities by studying marine life.

# Latur must have Vocational and Technical Institute.

Technical training is must to each person with this view that it can provide employment to each hand and towards this purpose, it is proposed to have an apex technical institute based

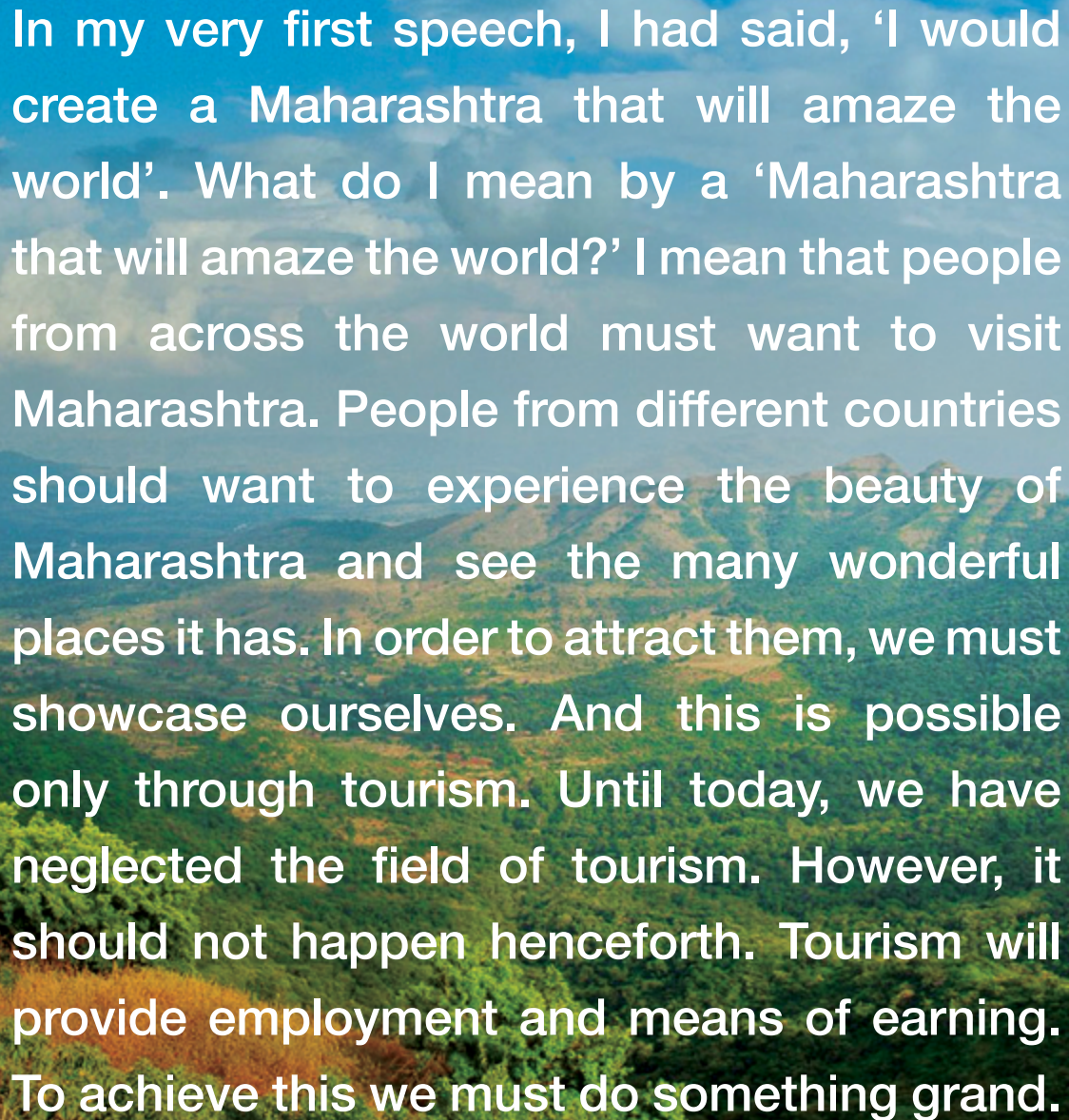
in Latur. All the technical training institutes in the state will be in linked to this apex institute. This institute must study all the latest researches and updates conducted in the technical fields and new knowledge fields in the world and upgrade it in these institutes of the State.

# The utensils of Bhadravati must reach the global markets.

The utensils of Bhadravati are excellent in art and in use compared to the other products in the global markets. Thus, it is must to provide an important place to these utensils in the global markets.

# Lonar must have bio-diversity research centre.

This crater created by the impact of a meteorite is a global wonder. We propose to have a bio-diversity research centre based at Lonar.



In my very first speech, I had said, 'I would create a Maharashtra that will amaze the world'. What do I mean by a 'Maharashtra that will amaze the world?' I mean that people from across the world must want to visit Maharashtra. People from different countries should want to experience the beauty of Maharashtra and see the many wonderful places it has. In order to attract them, we must showcase ourselves. And this is possible only through tourism. Until today, we have neglected the field of tourism. However, it should not happen henceforth. Tourism will provide employment and means of earning. To achieve this we must do something grand.



## **World of Tourism will sow the seeds of economic growth in Maharashtra.**

Countries like Maldives, Thailand and Mauritius have achieved incredible progress based on tourism. States like Kerala, Goa realized the importance of their own natural wealth, and they marketed it globally. Similarly, Maharashtra also has a beautiful long sea front like Goa and Kerala; it has world famous caves like Ajanta and Verul, it has hill stations, wild life sanctuaries and pilgrim places. It is necessary to attract more and more tourist towards these valuable resources. This will generate employment for the people of Maharashtra.

## **New National Wildlife Sanctuaries and Gardens must be declared.**

It is necessary to have similar new national wild life sanctuaries and gardens at Kalsubai, Amboli, Kolhapur and Yavatmal as the national parks of Tadoba, Navegaon, Gugamal, Chandoli, etc. We should have wildlife and bird sanctuaries at Matheran, Mahableshwar and Panchgani. It is necessary to protect the forest in the periphery of Koyna and Ujjani dams and eco-tourism must be encouraged.

It is possible to build bird sanctuary in the green valleys of Malshej ghat, I.N.S Shivaji, Lonavala and Ozar.

Maharashtra can become a center for eco tourism and we must take consistent efforts to make this happen.

## **Building Mumbai Eye similar to the London Eye.**

It is necessary to have a viewing gallery in Mumbai similar to London Eye. The viewing gallery would be the first project that will help to see the wide-spread Mumbai in a single eye view.

## **The centrepiece of our country must be showcased to the world**

The center point of our country is in Nagpur and is completely neglected at present. It is necessary to build a beautiful monument at this place. It is necessary to show the whole world that this spot is in Maharashtra.

## **Sahyadris must be a centre for adventure sports.**

Currently, attraction for adventure sports is increasing in worldwide. Mountaineering, rock climbing, para gliding, etc have a huge scope in the mountain range of Sahyadris. Why cannot a 'tour of the Sahyadris' be as challenging as 'Tour de France'? It is possible. It will definitely encourage sports, but at the same time, it will introduce the mountain range of Sahyadris to the whole world.

## **State must have new hill stations.**

Current hill stations in our State are those from the times of British but we have not raised a single hill station after that. Maharashtra is blessed with nature and scenic beauty and it has to be utilized in appropriate manner. There is lot of scope to develop new hill stations in Maharashtra. There must be a special law for it. The law will state that no injustice will happen to the people affected by the project and the environment will be taken care of while raising a new hill station.

## **Marathi and Hindi films can be filmed anywhere in the state with the permission of Maharashtra Police.**

Maharashtra is blessed with natural beauty; we have magnificent oceans, mountain range, forests, huge plateaus, etc. These natural resources can become excellent shooting locations. But most of the times, getting permission for shooting the film becomes difficult due to red tapism. Film shooting generates employment and it is one of the powerful mediums to show the prosperity of our state to the world. Thus, film shooting anywhere in Maharashtra should be possible on permission of Maharashtra police.

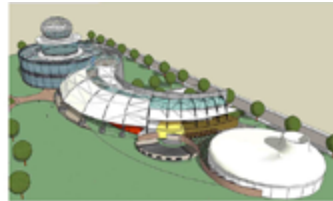
## **Bollywood of Mumbai must become a tourist attraction.**

The second largest film industry 'Bollywood' is based in Maharashtra state. People all over the world are attracted to it. This attraction must be used for development of tourism. We should have a gallery that will showcase the history of Bollywood, the techniques used for shooting and making of film; this can be shown to the tourist. We can attract the attention of people from different countries and the world.





ENTRANCE GATE



MUSEUM VIEW



3&5-STAR HOTEL



SHOP FRONTS



CLUB HOUSE



ACTIVITY SPACE





## **Marathi Pride**

- Language and Identity
- Marathi in Daily Use
- Marathi in Government
- Marathi in Digital World
- Marathi in Education
- Marathi on World Stage
- Marathi Literature and Arts
- Conservation of Forts
- Traditional sports

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Our Marathi society. A society that  
cherishes its language and culture.  
A society that is proud of its identity.

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A society is shaped by its language; language, in turn, shapes the society. When we dream of an 'incredible' Maharashtra, we cannot ignore our language. It is our dream to make Maharashtra prosperous by making Marathi a global business language, a language of knowledge in the world of modernization and globalization. Here is the action plan of why and how it should be done. Thus we say, "this is how will be our future Maharashtra".

Our language of communication with the world will be English but our expression within will be in Marathi. We will take the help of English to learn about the world, but we will do so through a Marathi perspective. We will make our plans to compete with the world but our strategies will stem from a Marathi culture. We will dream our dreams in Marathi and celebrate our achievements in Marathi.

**Marathi culture must not only exist but also grow.  
For example,**

The children of this state must dream of prosperous Maharashtra and they must teach this to their next generations.

**There must be special Marathi industrial and business centers in all the important cities of the world.**

Many of our competent, talented and good youngsters are working abroad in large numbers, they are successfully proving themselves in various fields, they all should feel like coming back to Maharashtra, they must come here in Maharashtra, do research work for Maharashtra and establish industries in Maharashtra.

**Marathi University should rank among the first 10 universities of the world.**

**Universities across the world should want to conduct research on Marathi language, culture, arts etc.**

**Selective Marathi literature must be translated in other prominent languages of the world and other literature must be translated in Marathi language.**

**Maharashtrian technicians, researchers, experts and institutes should become world authorities - other countries must demand their services and seek their guidance.**

**Marathi banks must have branches all over the world.**

# Maharashtra must show the way to the world.

Yes, Maharashtra must lead the world; the world will get answers from Maharashtra to the problems faced by them... Maharashtra will provide the answers...

What should be done for this?

1. Maharashtra state must create its own official system that will create simple Marathi synonyms for difficult English words.
2. Increase in use of Marathi language will create more employment opportunities for native Marathi speakers in Maharashtra. It is necessary to have an official institute that will monitor all this and the use of Marathi language at work place and business.
3. The institute must monitor the use of Marathi language in banks and Insurance companies.
4. It is important to use Marathi language in day-to-day administrative activities and insist on its maximum use to preserve the pride of Marathi language.
5. People's language must be made government language for empowering the people through democracy. From Gram Panchayats to Municipal corporations, State government and at all the government administrative levels all the official transactions must be in Marathi.
6. All the legal proceedings of all the Courts in the State must be in Marathi and the process of justice must be in Marathi.
7. Change in name is one part. In future, it is must to have all the laws printed in Marathi for the common person to understand. Similarly, all the laws must be published on the website of Maharashtra State government or High Court of Mumbai in "Marathi Unicode".
8. For all the above changes to take place as mentioned regarding law and justice, it is necessary to provide education of law in Marathi language.
9. It is necessary to incorporate Marathi Unicode at all the levels in governance.
10. It is necessary to have one Marathi font on the computers and thus state government must try to

define one single font. In addition, everybody must try to follow it with mutual understanding.

11. It is mandatory to provide computer education in Marathi and education on computer in Marathi.

12. It is necessary to have more and more Marathi on internet. Henceforth the language that is prosperous on World Wide Web will be the prosperous language.

13. Marathi Computer and Technology University must be started.

14. State should make a law that every computer sold in Maharashtra must have Marathi keyboard and Marathi Unicode, and then only it will be sold.

15. In primary schools language of instruction should be Marathi.

16. The curriculum must provide information of Marathi language and Marathi art, culture and literature.

17. Excellent education of English must be provided in schools.

18. It is necessary to establish “independent Marathi Language University”

19. Facility of providing education up to graduation and (even after graduation) should be in Marathi and it should be requested at all levels.

20. In the curriculum of primary schools, scholarships and research in Marathi language, art, culture and literature must be provided support. Industrialist should be encouraged for the support.

21. It is necessary to establish relations with foreign universities at global level for research in Marathi literature and culture.

22. Special encouragements should be given to Marathi knowledge centers.

23. Maharashtrians staying all over the world should come together. There must be a discussion about how to strengthen the link between Maharashtra and other countries. It must be planned collectively.

24. Marathi Maharashtra Mandals from various countries should undertake the programs of teaching Marathi language to Marathi natives and citizens of that country.

25. There must be centers in every major city in the world that will work as link between Maharashtra and the world. Though these centers will be established with the help of local people; Maharashtra State government should work as a co-coordinator. Such centers should be established in London, Tokyo, Moscow, New York, Rome, Paris, Berlin, Shanghai, etc. These centers will work as communication centers between Maharashtra and the respective country. These centers for encouraging study of Marathi language, culture, art and literature should provide scholarships.



26. Many Maharashtrians learn various foreign languages of the world, thus they make Marathi literature available in various foreign language. Therefore, translation work should take place in large numbers.

27. It is necessary to organize programs of Marathi poems, Marathi art and literature all over the world.

28. Marathi movies which present Marathi culture to the world, such movies must be shown in various film festivals

29. Forts must be declared as 'Cultural Tourist Centre'.

30. Maharashtra State Forts and Historical places Conservation Corporation must be established.

## Use of Marathi should be the norm on computers.

Use of Marathi should be made easy on the computers if we have to preserve it on world wide web. Keyboard that will be workable on any computer must be provided. All the links on internet that are in Marathi must be preserved in a modern library for the future generations.

## Temples of Marathi culture must be built.

It is necessary to build hundreds of museums of Marathi culture. Various shades of Marathi culture can be shown through modern technology in these museums. These museums will raise the head of Maharashtra in the world.

## Maharashtra State Forts and Historical places Conservation Corporation must be established

The forts established by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are his real monuments. These monuments will encourage our coming generations and thus its careful preservation in compulsory.

1. It is necessary to establish a corporation for preservation of forts.
2. These forts must be renovated and history in the era of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj must be shown to the tourist with the help of modern technology.
3. There should be an excellent collection of books and articles from the era of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. We can preserve present and future carefully only if we are able to preserve the past neatly.

# The largest library in the world would be a fitting tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution and the creator of the slogan "LEARN AND UNITE", his real memorial should be built in this state. The largest library of the world in the premises of Indu Mill would be a tribute in real sense to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

## Let us raise the tower of culture in Paithan.

Global University of Marathi Culture must be established in the Paithan of Saint Eknath. Where Marathi lovers from all over the world and Maharashtra can come together and raise the banner of the State.

## A film movement must be started in Maharashtra.

Movies give us an awareness of the changing world, therefore the future generations must develop excellent taste (liking) for cinemas. Systematic efforts must be taken for this. There should be film clubs in every state. Institutes like National Film Archive should be in major cities. The subject "Concept of Movies" should be taught in schools.







In short

1. A content, happy Maharashtra

A people whose basic needs are fulfilled and who can look forward to a future.

2. A wise, knowledgeable Maharashtra

A people who are well educated, well trained, skilled and techno-savvy.

3. A liberal, free Maharashtra

A people, including farmers, who are industrious, entrepreneurs and have the freedom to pursue their calling in free markets.

4. A self-sufficient Maharashtra

A people and organizations, including government institutions that are financially self-sufficient.

5. A meritocratic Maharashtra

A people that believe in quality, meritocracy and open competition in every sphere.

6. A decentralized Maharashtra

A people, institutions, a polity that believes in devolved decision-making.

7. A global Maharashtra

A people competent with world standards yet rooted in their own `Marathi`ness.

