

The policies adopted by the Government of Maharashtra led by Hon. Prithviraj Chavan:

Balanced regional development

For ensuring a balanced regional development of State, an Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr Vijay Kelkar has been set. Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayi Yojana, a fully State funded mediclaim scheme for people living below an income of Rs one lakh has been launched. The decision to reserve 50% seats for women in the State Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samities and gram panchyats is a revolutionary step towards women empowerment.

Development of Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Mumbai is described as the financial capital of the country. The State Government is working towards making it an International Financial Center. We have taken certain steps for planned development of Mumbai and Greater Mumbai like approval for the Navi Mumbai International Airport, bottlenecks in the modernization of existing airport at Mumbai removed and work expedited, commencement of the Bidding process for Sewri-Nhava-Sheva Trans Harbour Links, amendments in Development Control Regulations for development of old cessed buildings, approval of first cluster development project in Mumbai, decision to enhance FSI in suburban Mumbai by 0.33., launch of the first sector of Dharavi redevelopment project through MHADA for providing the slum dwellers quality housing stock.

Proposed second Airport in Navi-Mumbai will be of great help. Also the metro and monorail and the Trans Harbour link that will connect the hinterland are underway. In my opinion coastal ring road which will connect Cuffe Parade to Kandivli by reclaiming land can also be the solution. We are serious about doing it after studying feasibility report abiding by all clearances.

New Initiatives in Housing Sector

We have also taken new initiatives in housing sector. The Housing Regulatory Bill introduced in the State Legislature. This will give direct relief to the citizens in their dealings with the real estate developers and will bring transparency and accountability to the sector. Notification issued to mandate 20% houses for lower income groups in private layouts of areas of more than 2000 sq. mtrs. The demand for providing houses to the former textile workers was pending for more than a decade. A series of meetings and consultative process has led to a policy decision to provide subsidized houses to about 7000 textile workers and land to cooperative housing societies of other workers, redevelopment of Dharavi Sector-5 will soon start through MHADA.

Leads in Industrial Investment

Maharashtra continues to lead in industrial investment. Recent investors include well known companies like Posco, PGI Vehicles, LG Electronic, Tetra Pak, Skoda Auto, and Solar Industries. Last year 81 major companies have proposed projects with an investment of Rs. 87733 crores with employment potential of 54,807 persons. Maharashtra has established track record of attracting large investments with the highest implementation rate in the country with 303 mega projects investments of 2.63 lakh crore with employment of over 3 lakhs in a period of mere five years. Projects worth 1.12 lakh crore have been finalized in this fiscal year. The State has 18500 micro, small, medium enterprise (MSMEs) employing 210000 people. A policy to further promote this sector is on the anvil. we are also developing Mumbai, Nashik and Pune as a golden triangle. This belt will attract high-tech industry. There are big opportunities for setting up new units on the Delhi-Mumbai freight corridor. We have asked for a special permission to build (only) coastal roads.

To provide robust investment environment to the expanding base of global and domestic investors, the Industries department has set up the Investor Facilitation Cell. Further a Single Window facilitation portal has been established to provide investors a one stop comprehensive investment friendly portal where they can avail information and various services. This is one of the major state initiatives for rationalization and simplification of business regulations under the NMP. The state has

taken several initiatives to assist in a simple exit mechanism for sick units while ensuring protection of labour interests.

Further to promote Green Technology Maharashtra is encouraging Energy and Water conservation measures through Audits. And the Patent registration is 50%, with a cap up to INR 10 lakh domestic. This is one of the prime financial and institutional mechanisms for technology development, including green technologies in the state.

Skill up gradation training has been imparted to 37000 youth, 18 Technology Parks were started during last year creating 48,500 jobs. In addition 21 New Technology Parks were approved which will create 46500 jobs. The prestigious Multi-modal International Hub Airport, Nagpur (MIHAN) project was stagnating for last 5 years owing to agitations by the land owners and PAPs. We have sort out the issues of rehabilitation and now it would also revive industrial investment in and around Nagpur. IT giant, TCS has started construction, and Infosys has signed MoU and purchased land in the SEZ area of MIHAN early this year, which reflects renewed confidence of the investors.

For Agriculture and Rural Development

The scope of interest subvention scheme (interest free loan) was widened to include for crop loan upto Rs. 1 lakh, for the farmers, who repay the loan in time. The State received the Central Award for the best Panchayat Raj administration for the second consecutive year. A scheme to provide homestead plot of 100 sq.mtrs and Rs. 12,000 has been started for landless for building dwelling units under Indira Awas Yojana. Village Malls will be set up to provide marketing in rural areas.

Government has also launched e-scholarship scheme to bring transparency in the distribution of scholarships to students and has successfully deposited these scholarships in the Bank Accounts of students during 2011-12.

The State is running several schemes to make essential commodities available to the poor at reasonable prices. Home delivery scheme of foodgrains at the door-step of consumers has been approved by Government. To curb leakages and wastage in the Public distribution system (PDS) the entire system has been computerized and a GPS tracking system has been introduced.

We have launched Rajiv Gandhi Jivandai Aarogya Yojana to benefit poor people. 247 modern Ambulances for emergency medical services in municipal corporations.

Government is implementing Right to Education Act with a view to ensure free and compulsory education for all sections of the society. The State Youth and Sports Policies have also been announced.

Government has decided to provide 5% reservation in Government jobs for sports persons achieving distinctions at the State, National and International sports events. 12 such sports persons have joined Government service since the last one year.

To boost Tourism

To boost tourism in the State, an integrated plan for Sea Beaches to be developed along the 720 Kms of Konkan coast line has been prepared. 4-eco tourism circuit work have been started with the assistance of Central government. Also a holistic plan for restoration and conservation of major historical forts in Maharashtra is being prepared. The fort circuit and Buddhist circuit projects are to be initiated this year. State government has allocated a separate fund for preparation of a integrated tourism development plan for the State. In future, each district to focus on tourism potentiality and submitted an action plan to government.