

**HON'BLE CHAIRMAN, HON'BLE SPEAKER AND
HON'BLE MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all in the first Session of the State Legislature in the year 2020. I wish you all a happy new year 2020.

2. I have met you in this august house assembled on the 1st December 2019 and it is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to see you again after a short span of about one month.

3. My Government is committed to follow the path laid down by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jotirao Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other great visionaries and social reformers.

4. My Government is committed to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, *Vimukta Jatis* (De-notified Tribes), Nomadic Tribes, women and other downtrodden people of Maharashtra. My Government will accelerate the implementation of the schemes and programmes aimed at welfare of those sections of the society.

5. My Government is committed to implement security measures for protection of women. Prompt and stern action will be taken in respect of offences against women. Also, appropriate amendments will be carried out in the laws for that purposes.

6. My Government will strive to ensure that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get due representation in all fields of social life. Towards this end my Government will introduce official motion ratifying the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019 in this current session of the State Legislature. I am sure that the Hon'ble Members will wholeheartedly lend their support to this Government initiative.

7. This year marks sixty years of the formation of Maharashtra. I pay homage to the martyrs of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement. During the past 60 years, Maharashtra has made remarkable progress in agriculture, industry, information technology, arts, sports, music, education and other fields of life. My Government will organise various programmes to celebrate these achievements.

8. In my speech on the 1st December 2019, I have re-iterated my Government's commitment to the protection of the constitutional rights and privileges of the Marathi speaking people residing in 865 villages claimed by the State in relation to the Maharashtra Karnataka border. My Government will continue to take firm stand in the pending matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

9. The Marathi theatre movement has completed one hundred and seventy five years in the last year. During this year, we plan to establish a museum on the history of this movement at Mumbai.

10. My Government has decided to implement 'Shiv Bhojan', a scheme aimed for the welfare of the poor and needy people. The cost of Shiv Bhojan per plate for urban areas will be rupees fifty and for the rural areas, it will be rupees thirty-five. Under this scheme, the poor and needy person will pay rupees ten only and get a square meal at a subsidised rate and the balance amount will be provided

by the Government. The scheme will implemented in a phased manner starting from each District Head Quarter and the Municipal Corporation Areas.

11. To give relief to 'Baliraja', my Government has decided to implement Mahatma Jotirao Phule Shetkari Karj Mukti Yojana'. Under this scheme, overdue amount up to rupees two lakhs which includes the principal amount and the interest as on 30th September 2019, for the short term crop loan and restructured short term crop loan availed during the period the 1st April 2015 till 31st March 2019 will be waived. My Government will implement this scheme in a time bound manner. My Government is finalising a relief package in respect of the farmers whose overdue amount of short term crop loans exceed rupees two lakh. Similarly, in order to encourage the farmers who are repaying their crop loans timely, my Government will announce new measures shortly.

12. Measures will be undertaken for overall development of youths in the state. My Government is committed to provide security to the youths.

13. My Government *is inspired by the teaching of Swami Vivekananda, who said, "My Faith is in the Younger Generation, the Modern Generation, out of whom will come my workers. They will work out the whole problem, like lion". In this direction, My Government shall strive to nurture sports talent amongst tribal youths by creating Centers for Excellence in Sports or Sports Academies in a phased manner in region-wise Divisions of the Tribal Development Department at Nashik, Thane, Amaravati and Nagpur. This will be done in collaboration with reputed organizations and experts.*

14. My Government will undertake development of pilgrimage centres in Maharashtra. A large number of devotees undertake pilgrimage to Shirdi. Many of them undertake padyatras. My Government proposes to provide amenities to such pilgrims and Padyatris. In the first instance, my Government will provide basic amenities like toilets, drinking water and other amenities, etc. to such padyatris enroute from Mumbai to Shirdi.

15. My Government will also announce various welfare schemes benefitting rural as well as urban population of the State. Schemes will be implemented benefitting people from all walks of life. As said by Saint Ramdas, 'राजी राखता जग। मग कार्यभागाची लगबग। ऐसे जाणोनिया सांग। समाधान राखावे।'

16. Hon'ble Members, in this special session the aforesaid motion will be tabled before you for consideration. Also in the forthcoming sessions in the year, the budget proposals for the new financial year, appropriation bills and other legislations will be put for your consideration. I am confident that Hon'ble Members will participate and give their well considered inputs on those proposals.

Once again, I extend my warm greetings.

JAI HIND ! JAI MAHARASHTRA !