



Newsflash: Key Highlights of Maharashtra State Budget 2023-24

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1.0 BACKGROUND:

The Maharashtra State Budget for financial year (FY) 2023-24 was presented by the State Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis on 9 March 2023. The States' Finance Minister stated that, out of the proposed economy of 5 trillion US dollars, Maharashtra's share will be around USD 1 trillion.

The said Budget has proposed certain key proposals which include Development of Gem & Jewellery Sector, Agriculture and Auxiliary Services, Women Empowerment, Infrastructure Development, Investment & Economic Growth and Social Development. In this newsflash, we have discussed the significant proposals of the Maharashtra State Government.

2.0 A NEW AMNESTY SCHEME, 2023 ANNOUNCED – MAHARASHTRA SETTLEMENT OF ARREARS OF TAX, INTEREST, PENALTY OR LATE FEE ACT, 2023

- An Amnesty Scheme called as '**Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears of Tax, Interest, Penalty or Late Fee Act, 2023**' to be introduced.
- This Scheme is applicable on various taxes levied by GST Department before introduction of GST. Duration of this Amnesty Scheme will be from 1 May 2023 to 31 October 2023 and shall be applicable to outstanding tax payments as on 01 May 2023.
- There would be complete waiver of the arrears in cases where arrears are Rs. 2,00,000/- or less per year. This is estimated to benefit around 1 lakh small dealers.
- Dealers having arrears upto Rs. 50 lakhs or less per statutory order will pay only 20% amount and balance 80% will be waived. This is estimated to benefit around 80,000 medium dealers.

3.0 SECTOR-WISE HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 Gems & Jewellery

- **Proposal to setup new Gems and Jewellery Centre at Navi Mumbai.**

3.2 Agriculture and Allied Activities:

- Provision of additional Rs. 6,000 per year to farmers under a new scheme Namo Shetkar Mahasnanman Nidhi over and above the contribution of the Rs. 6,000 provided by the Centre under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi Samman scheme.
- Proposal to provide Rs. 15,000 as an incentive per hectare to all paddy growing farmers.
- Allocation of Rs. 29,163 crore for farming
- Provisions of Rs. 5 lakh as insurance scheme for the traditional fishermen with the help of the centre.

3.3 Key Infrastructure Developments:

- Allocation of Rs. 36,000 crore for various mega infra projects.
- Provision of Rs. 1,234 crore for cashew processing units.
- Proposal to invest Rs. 162 crore for Waterways.
- Allocation of Rs. 527 crore for new passenger terminal at Shirdi Airport.
- Provisions of Rs. 39,000 crore for metro projects in Thane, Nashik and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Further, Rs. 1,729 crore is proposed for beautification of Mumbai.
- Rs. 20,000 crore proposed to make Marathwada drought free.
- Provision of Rs. 14,224 crore for roads and flyover constructions.
- Provision of Rs. 50 crore for setting up the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Theme Park at Ambegaon in Haweli taluka of Pune district.
- Proposal for 500 electric buses for State Transport
- Provision of Rs. 250 crore for developing Gardens depicting life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

3.4 Health and Social Development:

- Proposal to raise ceiling limit from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh under Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojna health scheme.

- Provision of Rs. 3,520 crore for public health department.

3.5 Housing & Urban Development:

- Proposal to build 10 lakh houses in next 3 years under PM Awas Yojna.
- Estimated outlay of Rs. 12,000 crore to be incurred for initiating Modi Awas Gharkul Yojana.

3.6 Socio-Economic Benefits:

- Provision of rebate of 50% in state transport buses. Further, women homebuyers to get 1% discount on stamp duty.
- Provision of Rs. 43,000 crore for women and child development.
- At present employed women have to pay Profession Tax if their salary is more than Rs. 10,000 per month. Proposal to waive Professional Tax for women with a monthly salary of upto Rs. 25,000. Further, the definition of 'Person with Disability' in the Profession Tax Act is proposed to be amended as per definition given in the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and hence more persons with disabilities will become eligible for exemption from payment of Profession Tax.
- Allocation of Rs. 13,437 crore for environment department.
- Provision of Rs. 50 crore for development of first women's school in Pune, set up by social reformer Savitribai Phule.
- Reduction of VAT rate on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from 25% to 18% in Mumbai, Pune and Raigad districts thereby providing impetus to air transportation.

For further information please contact:

RSM Astute Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

8th Floor, Bakhtawar, 229, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021.

T: (91-22) 6108 5555/ 6121 4444

F: (91-22) 6108 5556/ 2287 5771

E: emails@rsmindia.in

W: www.rsmindia.in

Offices: Mumbai, New Delhi - NCR, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Surat, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Gandhidham, Jaipur and Vijayanagar.



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