

'Hopeful, 12 lakh people will use Mumbai-Alibaug Ro-Ro service annually'



Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) CEO **N Ramaswami** talks about the future of water transport networks in Maharashtra, in an interview with **Neeraj Tiwari**.

Have you decided the date by when the Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) services between Mumbai and Alibaug will start?

The Ro-Ro services between Mumbai and Alibaug will start from the second week of March. We are waiting for time from the chief minister to inaugurate the project. The trial runs for the service will be completed between February 27 and March 4. Hopefully, in the second week of March, commuters can avail the services. It will not only save time for commuters heading to Goa and Konkan but will also decongest road traffic. We are hopeful that nearly 12 lakh commuters will use the Ro-Ro services annually.

There were eight Ro-Ro services planned in (Mumbai Metropolitan Region) MMR and Mumbai. What is the current status of these projects?

Work on constructing jetties for the Ro-Ro services are going on. By June, we will be able to complete the Nerul jetty, which will play an important role in providing water transport connectivity between Navi Mumbai and other regions, including Kalyan, Thane and Mumbai. Apart from this, construction of a jetty in Gorai is also going on at a good pace and will be ready by September this year. Work on six other jetties — Manori, Narangi, Bhayander, Borivali, Belapur and



N Ramaswami

Veldur — will be completed by March 2021.

There was a plan to connect Mumbai and other municipal corporations in MMR through water transport.

The plan to create water transport networks between MMR and Mumbai has been delayed by lack of funds. No one wants to invest in infrastructure required for water transport. The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) was supposed to prepare a masterplan with 33 routes but, as of now, there is only one route in that circuit, which will start from September this year. This route will connect Navi Mumbai-Kalyan-Mira Road.

Is funding the main problem why these projects are not taking off?

Yes, funds are the biggest issue. That is the main reason why plans to develop water transport has failed since 1978. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) model will not work in terms of creating infrastructure for water transport. Private players will come, operate the ferries but will not invest in creating jetties. For any public transport, infrastructure is the responsibility of the government. No private player will invest Rs 600-800 crore. As per our new plan, we will pro-

vide jetties and basic infrastructure for water transport and private players will operate the services. Hopefully, this will attract operators.

Can Maharashtra generate the ridership to attract private operators?

Yes, there is a sizeable demand. In Maharashtra, there are nearly 53 water routes, including international, national and internal routes, which are functional. Every year, nearly two crore commuters travel on these routes. The Mumbai-Alibaug route has a ridership of 12 lakh commuters per annum. Once Ro-Ro services start, the numbers will go up.

MMB also had a plan for water sports in the city and other places.

At Juhu beach, we have water sports. Apart from Juhu, there are 290 places in Maharashtra where water sports are doing well. Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Alibaug and Raigarh are among the top areas where water sports are doing a fantastic job. There are nearly 5,000 people who are engaged in water sports. In Mumbai, once the Mumbai Port Trust completes the cruise terminal, the potential for water sports will further increase.

Any plan to decongest the traffic of Gateway of India?

To decongest Gateway of India, we are working on two new jetties. One at NCPA and one near the radio club. The jetty near NCPA will accommodate most of the traffic for the proposed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in sea. However, the jetty which will come up near the radio club will ease ferry traffic of Gateway of India by nearly 50 per cent. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mumbai Port Trust for a jetty as well. The new jetty will cost nearly Rs 100 crore and will have the facility of a small cruise terminal.

What are the new plans of MMB to enhance water transport?

There are a few projects going under the Sagar Mala project. Apart from that, we are talking to a Russian company for hovercraft, which can ply in shallow waters as well. Once we get these boats, we can start water transport even in places like Thane Creek and Vasai Creek. The plan is at a very initial stage, that's why I can't comment on the number of boats and funds but within two or three months, will be able to finalise a draft for the same. Apart from hovercraft, one cruise terminal is also in the pipeline at Bhagwati port.

BUDGET SESSION BEGINS TODAY

First list of farm loan waiver today, 20,000 farmers to benefit: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 23

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said that the first list of the farm loan waiver scheme will be released on Monday and the loans of 20,000 farmers will be waived off. Thackeray further said that the lists will be released in phases and the exercise would be completed by May.

"The first list of farm loan waiver will be released tomorrow (Monday). The list will include farmers from two villages each in every district. It is to see whether the system that is being used for farm loan waiver is functioning properly. The next list will be released on February 28. We plan to complete the farm loan waiver scheme by May," said Thackeray while addressing the media at Sahyadri Guest House on the eve of the Budget Session.

Apart from Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anil Parab with two junior ministers were present. Interestingly, senior Congress ministers were not present.

While the government has planned to bring 13 Bills in the Assembly session, it however does not mention about bringing a Bill to make Marathi language compulsory in schools of all boards in the state.



Uddhav Thackeray, Ajit Pawar and Balasaheb Thorat at a tea party on Sunday ahead of the Budget Session. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Ajit Pawar said around 35 lakh farmers have claimed they are eligible for the farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh. "But, the exact number of beneficiaries will be known after verifying their claims," he added.

Thackeray also said that the government will fight the cases against Marathi reservation with full might in the court. "I am sure the government will win the battle," he added.

Taking potshots at opposition BJP, Thackeray said that it should work as strong opposition and should make suggestions and issues of people. "The government

is stable and started functioning well but the opposition is not able to digest the fact. That is why they are leveling baseless allegations," he added.

Deshmukh said he along with the five senior Home Department officials had gone to Andhra Pradesh to get information on the DISHA Act. "We are planning to bring a similar law in the state with some changes in it. We have set up a committee of five senior officials that will give the report by March 30. Then, it will be put before the cabinet and then will bring it in the next Assembly session," he said.

Pawar working on agenda to implicate 'Hindutvawadis' in Bhima Koregaon: Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 23

NCP PRESIDENT Sharad Pawar was working on a definite political agenda to implicate "Hindutvawadis" (supporters of Hindutva) in the Bhima Koregaon case, former chief minister and Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday.

Speaking on Pawar's stiff opposition to transfer the Elgaar Parishad case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and seeking a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe instead, Fadnavis said, "During my tenure as chief minister (he was also in charge of Home), there was a thorough probe."

DIDN'T HAND OVER ELGAAR PARISHAD TO NIA, SAYS UDDHAV

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray clarified in Mumbai on the eve of the Budget Session that he didn't hand over the Elgaar Parishad probe to the NIA. "I didn't hand over the case to the NIA but the Centre took it in its right. We have expressed our displeasure on it as they have shown mistrust on the state's investigative agency," he added.

While ruling out any cover-up in the investigation by his government, Fadnavis said, "Neither the Bombay High Court nor the Supreme Court had any objection to the investigation by the then state police. However, it is evident that the NCP president is keen on revoking the matter with a definite agenda." Shortly after the Bhima

Koregaon violence, Fadnavis recalled how the NCP president had convened a press conference and alleged the role of right-wing leaders Milind Ekbote and Sambhaji Bhide.

Accordingly, the then BJP-Sena government initiated a probe. Bhide was given a clean chit but action was taken against Ekbote. "By setting up an SIT to re-look into the Bhima Koregaon case, Pawar wants to hold Hindutvawadis responsible for the 'why'," Fadnavis said.

"Why is Pawar so keen on a state probe into Elgaar Parishad? The Maoist link was not limited to Maharashtra. It was inter-linked to various states which has to be probed by central agencies like the NIA. There are adequate documents to establish the role of Maoists," he said.

Elgaar Parishad was an evening event organised at Pune's Shaniwar Wada on December 31, 2017, a day before the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon, which every year attracts lakhs of pilgrims to a war memorial in the village of Koregaon Bhima, 25 km northwest of Pune. On this occasion, violence broke out in areas around Pune, resulting in the death of one person and injuries to several others.

BJP draws up strategy to corner ruling coalition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 23

THE Budget Session, commencing from Monday, will test the unity of the Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena, as the BJP draws up a strategy to corner the coalition partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on their ideological differences.

While praising Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and National Population Register (NPR) and agreeing to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) taking over the probe in the Elgaar Parishad case, Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis said, "The BJP has decided to boycott the customary tea party of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government on the eve of the Budget Session."

"The purpose of the tea party is to ensure better coordination between the ruling and opposition parties on important issues

during the session. But unfortunately, today we see sharp differences between the Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena," he said.

Fadnavis urged Uddhav to bring a resolution in the state Assembly and Council to commemorate the death anniversary of Veer Savarkar on February 26. Another demand by the Opposition is banning of Congress in-house magazine Shidori for publishing a controversial article on Savarkar.

Describing the three-party government as "sthangiti sarkar", Fadnavis expressed serious concerns over the series of decisions taken by the Uddhav government to stop projects.

Fadnavis meets protesters

Fadnavis on Sunday met members of Sakal Maratha Morcha, who are protesting for the last 27 days demanding government jobs, and assured that he would raise their issue in the Assembly in the Budget Session.



MUMBAI CONFIDENTIAL



UNITED FRONT

AFTER UPSETTING THE BJP in Maharashtra, the Mahagathbandhan of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress is now eyeing a similar result in the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls. Seven Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra, including that of NCP president Sharad Pawar and Union minister Ramdas Athawale, will be vacated in April this year. Assured of winning four of the seven seats, the Mahagathbandhan has decided to put up a united front, sources said. In that scenario, the BJP will be assured of winning just two seats, while the seventh seat could turn out to be a close contest between the two sides. Sources also said Pawar will be renominated as the the Mahagathbandhan's consensus candidate.

ON WAITING

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray is keen to avoid any controversy over the appointment of Shiv Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar and Sena MP Arvind Sawant to key positions in the Cabinet. We have heard that both the leaders have been asked not to formally accept their appointment letters till the government consults legal experts on whether their appointment will constitute Office of Profit. The Thackeray government had earlier issued appointment orders of Waikar as chief coordinating officer in the Chief Minister's Office and of Sawant as the head of the state parliamentary coordination committee.

IN A SPOT OF BOTHER

HIGH-PROFILE BUREAUCRAT and Thane civic commissioner Sanjeev Jaiswal landed in a controversy this past week for allegedly making derogatory remarks against civic officials on a WhatsApp group. While the episode led to an uproar in the Thane municipality's general body meeting, it could also cast a shadow on Jaiswal's next assignment. Having completed five years in the Thane civic body, the 1996-batch IAS officer is due for a transfer. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has been briefed about the controversy, sources said.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

WHEN UDDHAV Thackeray flew to Delhi on his first visit after taking charge as the chief minister, Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta accompanied him. Sources also said Mehta had played a key role in drafting the state's wish list, which was handed over to the Centre. Thackeray's recent bureaucratic transfer exercise also had Mehta's imprint on it. Just as Mehta's extended term ends in March, sources said he has continued to be Thackeray's commander-in-chief as far as state administrative affairs are concerned.

STEPPING IN

STEPPING IN to curb arbitrary recruitment to plum postings with Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), the state administration has barred the authority from recruiting officials on deputation without its concurrence. Orders issued by the state's housing department last week make it clear that all such recruitment will now have to be cleared by high-level committees appointed by the government. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's office will sanction all appointments on deputation for Class I posts and Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad will approve Class II postings. Deputations to lucrative posts in the MHADA are much sought after, especially by officials from the all-powerful revenue department.

PRESSURE TACTIC

THE BIG daddies are at it again. Sources said the builders' lobby has started pushing the demand for a further drop in premiums on additional floor space index. While Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has not yet given into the pressure, we have been told that the CMO has asked authorities in the urban development department to consider the demand. A top-notch builder, with past controversies to his name, has been frequenting Mantralaya a lot these days and has become a subject of debate in the corridors of power.

COMPILED BY SANDEEP ASHAR

Have a comment or suggestion for Mumbai Confidential? Write to mumbai.newsline@expressindia.com with subject line: Mumbai Confidential

Police unearth human trafficking racket while probing 'terror' tip-off

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 23

THE CRIME Branch of Mumbai Police on Sunday claimed to have detected a human trafficking racket while investigating a potential terror threat. Police received a tip-off that seven persons were being sent to Pakistan via Dubai to undergo training at terror camps, but when they were detained it was revealed during the interrogation that they were being smuggled into the USA, police said. They added that so far, no terror links have emerged.

"Police received information through mail on February 20 that seven persons, including a Pakistan-based woman, were likely to go to Pakistan via Dubai from Mumbai," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Preventive) Datta Nalawade. Nalawade added that the sender of the mail, who claimed

to be Rameesh Makhan, stated that this group will arrive in Pakistan to undergo training at terror camps and then return to India. "However, the interrogation revealed that the group was not going to Pakistan but to the US via Canada," Nalawade said. He said, "We also found that the person who tipped us off was not named Rameesh Makhan, but Rizwan Sayyed. He is a Pakistan-origin man living in the US. We learnt that the family members of these seven were in the US and had paid between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to Sayyed for the trafficking operation."

Sources said while, so far, there was no clarity on why Sayyed tipped off the police, they suspect it was to ensure that the seven persons were detained here so that he could escape with the relatives' money. According to police, the seven are aged between 28 and 35. Police have made no arrests.

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
W.M.D., N.R.G., Trombay, Mumbai 400 085

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

On line two part item rate e-tender are hereby invited through e-tendering mode by Chief Engineer, Nuclear Recycle Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai-400085, on behalf of President of India, from eligible contractors for the following work:

TENDER NOTICE NO: BARC/NRG/RSMS/ Mobile Canopy/2020/01 Dtd: 17/02/2020

Name of Work: "Fabrication, Supply, erection and commissioning of motorized Rain Protection Mobile Canopy unit and gantry girder with rail for 10/1 Ton crane as per drawings and specification BARC, Trombay."

Estimated cost: - Rs 75,60,000/-, E.M.D. - Rs 1,51,200 /-, Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) months. Tender Processing Fee: Rs 4,460/- by e-payment through electronic mode (Non-Returnable) in favour of M/s ITI Limited, New Delhi. Dates for Request for purchase / Download of Tender: From 24.02.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 09.03.2020 (15:00 Hrs.) on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE Last date and time of closing of online submission of e-tender: 26.03.2020 (14:00 Hrs.). Detailed NITs for above tender is available on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE for free view / download and detailed NIT on website www.barc.gov.in for free view only. Registered contractors only can download & upload tenders. Contact for assistance for registration and participation in e-Tendering: Tenderwizard.com/DAE under contact buttons.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Nuclear Recycle Group

FORM A
Public Announcement
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF ESKAY K 'N' IT (INDIA) LIMITED

Relevant Particulars	
1 Name of Corporate Debtor	ESKAY K 'N' IT (INDIA) LIMITED
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	24/04/1987
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Ministry of Corporate Affairs Ahmadabad
4 Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	L18109DN1987PLC000034
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered office : 58 B, Dhenu Udyog Industrial Area, Pipera, Silvassa (UT) 396230
6 Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	NCLT order dated 17/02/2020 (Published on 21/02/2020)
7 Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	16/08/2020 (180 days)
8 Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Mr. Vikas Prakash Gupta IP no. : IBB/IPA-001/IP-P00501/2017-18/10889
9 Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: C/o Dipati Enterprises, 55, Nehru Pulla, Inwari, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440002 Email: vikas.gupta@bngca.com
10 Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Address: 405, K.P. Aunum, 4th Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Marol Naka, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 Email: ip.eskaykni@gmail.com
11 Last date for submission of claims	06/03/2020
12 Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13 Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14 (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at :	(a) Relevant Forms available at https://www.ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the M/s Eskay K 'N' IT (India) Ltd. vide NCLT order dated 17/02/2020 published on 21/02/2020.

The creditors of M/s Eskay K 'N' IT (India) Ltd., are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 06/03/2020 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Vikas Prakash Gupta
Interim Resolution Professional
IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00501/2017-18/10889

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
MARTYRS OF 205 COBRA

HC/GD
GULAB YADAV

HC/DVR
NAROTTAM DAS

Martyrs of 205 CoBRA, CRPF made the supreme sacrifice during a counter-Maoist operation in the area of Vill- Bhagpur, U/Ps- Dumaria, Distt- Gaya (Bihar) on 24th February, 2015 in a true act of valour. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their patriotism and courage. To these brave martyrs we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and do their names proud.

IG & All Ranks of CoBRA

Homi Bhabha National Institute
2nd Floor, Training School Complex, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai - 400094.
Tel. No.: 022-25597611 Fax : 022-25503384
Email : apohbni@hbni.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO: HBNI/DEJ/2020/01

"Support Services for academic management, data analytics and works in administration and management at HBNI Central Office" which shall include services not limited to data entry services, student support services, s/w maintenance and operations and compilation, collation of student results, printing, filing, recording & maintenance of students' e-records/ e-register & related activities; assistance in the office works, management of files per procedures in the prescribed formats.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 60.00 Lakhs
Period & duration of the Contract : 12 months & extendable for another 12 months"
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 1,02,000/-
(a) Date of Issue of Tender : 24 February 2020 (from 12.30 hrs)
(b) Due date for submission of Tender : 13 March 2020 up to 15:00 hrs
(c) Opening of Technical Bid : 13 March 2020 at 15:30 hrs

The Tender document shall be downloaded from the HBNI website www.hbni.ac.in. There shall be no enquiries regarding Tender document directly/or in person.

NOTE:
(1) Canvassing in any form shall lead to disqualification from the process for participating in the Tender.
(2) The respondents are requested to visit www.hbni.ac.in for frequent updates about the pre-bid meeting and tender updates.
*Subject to conditions laid therein.

[REGISTRAR]