



80km from Mumbai, it's a very dry story

With its Tansa and Bhatsa dams, Shahapur supplies most of Mumbai's drinking water. But people from villages in and around this Thane division, which is about 80km from the city, do not get the benefits of these reservoirs. The wells in villages such as Washala, Dhengarmaal and Raachiwadi have dried up and villagers are forced to walk for miles to collect a bucketful of water from some muddy holes. The government is yet to send any water tanker to the area —**Vibhav Birwatkar/dna**



Your POV...

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Govt caps RRR rise at 10% this year

This is with reference to 'Govt caps RRR rise at 10% this year'. The state government's decision to hike Ready Reckoner Rates to 10% is deplorable. It is disgraceful that revenue minister Eknath Khadse is seen milking the common man by way of an increase in stamp duty. Government should be transparent in providing the working of 10% hike in RRR. Instead of providing roof tops over common heads the state is seen squeezing masses for optimum revenue. Where is BJP's self-proclaimed affordable housing? One is apprehensive whether the government will be able to meet the housing demand by 2022? EMI is like

adding fuel to fire to the already burdened flat seeker —**Deepak Chikramane**

Managing the water crisis

The World Water Day was on March 22. The significance of this day is all the more highlighted when many areas in suburban Mumbai and interior Maharashtra are seen reeling under water crisis. Several appeals have been made to public about the problem and the dire need to conserve water. The municipal corporation, some political parties and some organisations have also issued an advisory to refrain from water wastage. In areas like Mumbra, Thane, Kalyan and Diva where the STEM pipeline supplies water, water is made available

only for a few hours on 2 or 3 days a week and the residents are forced to rely on tanker water. An even more seriously grim situation prevails in interior areas like Latur, Beed, Hingoli, Osmanabad etc. where water is provided



once a month. Ironically, we see massive pilferage of water and unauthorised connections robbing this precious resource. With monsoon still a few months away, it seems a long wait for water. Ironically,

there has been continuous leakage of the water from a pipeline near Kharegaon toll plaza for almost 3 weeks and it took the authorities so much time to realise it and take appropriate action. The government and the ward offices should be more vigilant in supervising and curbing wastage and theft. Lack of education and the resultant inability to comprehend the gravity of the problem coupled with brazen disregard for such an appeal only has a salutary effect.

—**Deepak Agharkar**

No tax on income from agriculture

The finance minister has stated that there will be absolutely no tax levied on income from agriculture. The fact is that in

every political party, small or big, there is always a powerful lobby of rich farmers whose only work is to see to it that their respective party's leadership is made to dance to their tunes and no tax whatsoever is imposed on their hefty income from horticulture and other farm produce. The salaried and pensioner class is made to bear the heavy burden of paying income tax through their nose to compensate for the loss of tax revenue that would have otherwise been earned by the govt through the imposition of agricultural IT.

—**Vineet Phadtare**

India against Pakistan

Whenever India win against Pakistan in cricket, India echoes with such slogans as 'Hindustan zinabad, Bharat Mata Ki

Jai', flags are unfurled in streets and there is a scene of great celebration across the country. In Pakistan, on the other hand, there is silence everywhere, as if someone beloved has passed away. And when Pakistan defeats India, it seems like Pakistan has conquered India. I want to ask a few questions to the supporters of both the countries. If it is for the love of the country, why is there no heartbreak in India when it loses a game against New Zealand and why there is no cheerful moments in Pakistan? Why there's no celebration in India when Pakistan gets defeated by Bangladesh? If it is really for the affection of the country, why there's no celebration as well as grief when the women cricket team win or lose? —**Maqsood Ahmad**