



Maharashtra Cabinet Approval for New Projects

Why in News?

Maharashtra Chief Minister approved the policy on **electric bike taxis** to benefit solo commuters across the State. The Cabinet also cleared **nine key decisions**, including infrastructure projects such as the **Sindphana river projects** and the **Gadchiroli railway project**.

Key Points

- **Policy on E-Bike Taxis:**
 - The **policy prioritizes women's safety** with a **partition between the front and pillion riders** and a **roof cover** for monsoon protection.
 - The government is working on an **affordable revenue model** for single passengers.
 - The initiative is expected to **generate 10,000 jobs in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region** and **20,000 jobs across Maharashtra**.
 - The policy offers Rs 10,000 aid to children of auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers associated with a **government-certified corporation** who wish to apply for e-bike taxis.
 - The policy is based on recommendations from a **committee led by Ramnath Jha**.
- **Mining Foundation and Railway Development in Gadchiroli:**
 - The Cabinet approved the establishment of the **Gadchiroli District Mineral Foundation** to promote industrial development in the tribal district.
 - The foundation aims to support ultra mega projects and **MSME** projects in the region.
 - The government approved the formation of an authority to monitor the mineral sector, chaired by the Chief Minister with 13 other members.
 - The executive committee, led by the Chief Secretary, will oversee the authority's decisions.
 - The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 1,886.05 crore for the Wadsa-Desaiganj-Gadchiroli railway project, with the State contributing 50% (Rs 943.025 crore) of the cost.
- **AI-Based Law Enforcement and Infrastructure Projects:**
 - The government approved the establishment of **Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement (MARVEL)** to integrate **Artificial Intelligence** into law enforcement.
- **Infrastructure Approvals:**
 - Rs 161.12 crore sanctioned for **Nandurbar district's Nagthan Medium Project**.
 - Rs 58 crore allocated for three projects on **the Sindphana river**.
 - Rs 79.71 lakh incentive grant approved for 500 farmers in Murbad taluk, Thane district.