

Activities of the Nagrik Chetna Manch
1 April 2003-31 March 2004

1. **Donations:** The *Manch* received donations to the corpus as follows totalling Rs. 33501/-:

Ser	Name	Amount Rs.	Date	Member
1	Chaudhari S.	10000.00	29/09/03	Yes
2	Chaudhary B. F.	2000.00	26/06/03	Yes
3	Datar Sarla	2000.00	25/07/03	Yes
4	Deshpande C. R.	501.00	27/08/03,	Yes
5	Jain P. C.	2000.00	17/04/03	Yes
6	Jatar S. C. N.	2000.00	19/04/03	Yes
7	Kabraji Kersee	3000.00	26/06/03	Yes
8	Khan Munir	1000.00	17/10/03	Yes
9	Moghe Arun	1000.00	27/08/03	Yes
10	Mudholkar Ajay	2000.00	29/08/03	Yes
11	Mukherjee Amit	2000.00	27/08/03	Yes
12	Purnandare S. R.	2000.00	17/06/03	Yes
13	Sharma B. D.	2000.00	20/07/03	Yes
14	Singhanian Banke	2000.00	26/06/2003	Yes

2. Programmes/Seminars/Press Meets/Meetings

- Meeting with Municipal Commissioner in his office – 9.04.03
- Presentation on “International Convention Centre” by Shri Atul Chordia – 17.04.03
- Press Meet at Tanaji Hall, Sub Area HQ to protest against the excess use of FSI in Pune and Secunderabad Cantonments Oct. 03
- Interaction with Mr. A. N. Roy, Police Commissioner on Traffic and Law & Order in Pune – 26.06.03
- Talk at the Rajendra Sinhji Institute on “Issues taken up by NCM” – 12.10.03.

Issues taken with the Authorities

3. **Greening of Pune/Pollution Control Measures/Ward Performance:** Lt. Gen. (Retd) Amit Mukherjee took up with the PMC for environmental pollution with the RTA on 2 April 2003 and for greening of Pune with the PMC on 15 September 2004. Additional Municipal Commissioner convened a meeting later and accepted most of the points put up by *Nagrik Chetna Manch*.

4. **Encroachments on footpaths/pavements/Water Supply/Governance:** The PMC has issued an office order (143 of Feb. 01) allowing ottas/steps outside commercial buildings contrary to the provisions of DC Rules and in direct infringement of a Mumbai High Court order. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* has been taking up this issue at various levels, such as with PMC Commissioner, Lok Ayukta, Governor of Maharashtra and Mumbai High Court. We have now received a reply and the matter is under discussion with the PMC. The City Engineer still contends that his instructions are within the rules, which we have challenged. We have also taken up various issues with the Governor.

5. **Irregular Contracts/Appointments:** There is no regard for rules in awarding contracts and making appointments. Here too, the Nagrik Chetna Manch has found out using Maharashtra RTI Act, a number of irregularities, which would form the subject matter for the PIL.
6. **Package Tours in the garb of Study Tours:** *Nagrik Chetna Manch* exposed a tour conducted by the members of the Women and Child Welfare Committee from February 1, 2003 to February 11, 2003. They visited Delhi, Amritsar, Dalhousie and Vaishno Devi as a study tour. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* requested the Commissioner to recover the amount of Rs. 4 lakhs spent on this so-called study tour from the members of the team.
7. **Tour to Japan by Municipal Commissioner and others:** This tour to Japan was with the Members of Builder Association and sponsored by the Friends of Japan and Maratha Chamber of Commerce. The PMC is refusing to divulge information regarding funding of this trip. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* has appealed to the Appellate Authority.
8. **Sky Bus Metro for Pune:** The PMC has already paid Rs. 50 lakhs to the KRC to carry out a preliminary study and prepare a DPR. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* obtained a copy of the DPR by applying under the Maharashtra RTI, 2002. The DPR is a most unprofessional document with basic data missing. There is no information regarding traffic count, space for sky bus stations, parking lots, detailed alignment, etc. The financials too are hazy and major assumptions such as operational & maintenance costs, etc have no supporting data. The assessed cost of the project for the two routes is Rs. 1214.39 Crores. This comes to Rs. 53.03 crores per km for route number one and Rs. 65.18 Crores for the second route, making an average cost of Rs. 56.69 Crores per km. We have already approached a host of authorities including the Prime Minister of India with the aim of stalling the project. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* is discussing the matter with the Commissioner, who seems to have made up his mind to go for the sky bus project without scrutinising the DPR.
9. **Misuse of official transport:** The public representatives misuse public transport and use it for outstation duties to visit place of tourist interest. The Mayor, Chairman Standing Committee and Leader of the House use two cars without authority. The total expenditure on cars was a staggering Rs 51 lakhs for 10 months from January 1 to October 31, 2003. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* is pressing the Municipal Commissioner to lay down rules for the use of cars.
10. **Space for a Column/News Item in Daily Sakal for RTI:** Mr. Pratap Pawar agreed to devote space for information on RTI in Sunday Sakal. Gp. Capt. (Retd) S. R. Purandare has agreed to submit write-ups for Sakal, which we hope would find space in the newspaper.
11. **Water Supply Issue:** The *Manch* took up the issue and brought out some systemic flaws in planning for water supply for Pune
12. **Propagation of RTI:** The *Manch* has taken active part in the initiative of the Indian Express Newspaper to propagate the Right to Information.