

Activities of the Nagrik Chetna Manch
1 April 2004-31 March 2005

1. The Manch received donations as follows to the corpus totalling Rs. 25429/-:

Ser	Name	Amount Rs.	Date	Member
1	Jatar S. C. N.	2190.00	09/08/05	Yes
2	Karnik M. J.	2000.00	15/10/04	Yes
3	Kudchadkar Vishal	13589.00	23/06/2004	No
4	Mansy Gul	5000.00	20/12/04	Yes
5	Oswal Manoj	2000.00	26/5/04	Yes
6	Purandare S. R.	150.00	26/10/04	Yes
7	Vir Geeta	500.00	26/10/04	Yes

2. Programmes/Seminars/Press Meets

- "Meet your candidates" at Patrakar Bhawan-5.04.04
- "RTI users meet" at Lonavla attended by NCM representative – 13.06.04
- Press Conference at Patrakar Bhawan on "RTI" – 23.06.04
- Mr. Pratap Pawar: "The role of media in ensuring transparency in governance" – 22.07.04
- Mr. Prakash Kardaley: Workshop on "RTI" – 24.11.04
- Public meeting attended by Municipal Commissioner, members of the ruling party and the main opposition in the corporation and citizens on 'partaking in the budget formulating process in the PMC – 12.01.05,
- Interaction with Mr. D. N. Jadhav, Commissioner of Police – 21.01.05,
- Interaction with Mr. R. B. Gautam, Chief Engineer, MSEB on 11.02.05,
- Interaction and talk with Citizens' Committee for Efficient Administration and Senior Citizens of ICS Colony,
- Talk at the International Longevity Centre – India – 23.03.05,
- Meeting with Dr. Nitin Kareer for action on pending points on 31.03.05

Issues taken up with the Authorities

3. Greening of Pune/Pollution Control Measures: Lt. Gen. (Retd) Amit Mukherjee and Lt. Col (Retd) B. F. Choudhary followed up with the PMC the case for greening of Pune taken up on 30 November 2004.

4. Encroachments on footpaths/pavements: The PMC has issued an office circular (no. 143 of 8 Feb. 01) allowing ottas/steps outside commercial buildings in PMC areas. This results in encroachment on footpaths and is a direct infringement of a Mumbai High Court order prohibiting such encroachments. It also directs that all roads/streets should have a footpath according to the BPMC Act, 1849. *Nagrik Chetna Manch* has succeeded in getting the circular cancelled. The Manch is now monitoring the implementation of the assurance given by the Commissioner that the PMC would prepare a list of the encroachments and remove them.

5. Budget Formulating Process: *Nagrik Chetna Manch* organised a public meeting on 12 January 2005 to ascertain the views of the citizens of Pune on the PMC budget for 2005-06. The meeting was successful and the PMC included a number of points from the citizens in the budget for 2005-06.

6. **Election Watch:** *Nagrik Chetna Manch* organised a meeting of the citizens with the candidates for the Lok Sabha elections. The object of meeting the candidates is to mobilise public opinion in favour of democratic and electoral reforms and to promote better and citizen-centred democracy. The meeting evoked good response from the citizens.

7. **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. However, the PMC is dilly-dallying on the issue. We have lodged a criminal case in the court and the hearings are in progress. The Tree Authority also undertook a so-called 'study' tour to Darjeeling and Gangtok. We have filed a civil suit in this case and hearings are in progress.

8. **Press Conference on Right to Information Act:** *Nagrik Chetna Manch* held a press conference on 23 June 2004 to highlight the resolutions adopted by over 60 RTI activists at a meet at Lonavla on 13 June 2004.

9. **Suggestions on Draft Development Plan:** *Nagrik Chetna Manch* submitted suggestions/objections on the draft development plan for 23 fringe villages published by the Pune Municipal Corporation under the MR&TP Act, 1966. The document of *Nagrik Chetna Manch* covered legal issues, issues related to Development Control Rules, planning issues, financial aspects and issues related to hill slopes and hilltops.

10. **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. The PMC has now approached the State Government to bring the SBM under the Indian Tramways Act, which the State Government can approve. We have strongly protested to the PMC that SBM should not be progressed in the absence of a safety certification, which the Indian Railways have refused to give.

11. **Misuse of Official Transport:** The councillors 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 over Rs. 1 crore for 10 months from January 1 to October 31, 2004. The Municipal Commissioner has now issued a letter that no vehicles belonging to the PMC can go out of PMC limits without written permission from the Mayor/Commissioner, as the case may be.

12. **Parking Policy for PMC** The *Manch* prepared a document on the Parking Policy. PMC accepted only one suggestion, that is, pay and park, and that too only for four wheelers.

10 October 2006