

Activities of Nagrik Chetna Manch
1 April 2005-31 March 2006

Donations

1. The *Manch* received following donations to its corpus totalling Rs. 33690/-:

Serial	Name	Amount Rs.	Date	Member
1	Chaudhary B. F.	2000.00	08/08/2005	Yes
2	Dravid M. N.	3000.00	29/03/2006	No
3	Jain P. C.	5000.00	24/04/2005	Yes
4	Jatar S. C. N.	6190.00	16/05/2005	Yes
5	Kabraji Kersee	6000.00	09/09/2005	Yes
6	Kanga H. P.	3000.00	03/10/2005	Yes
7	Moolgaonkar H	1000.00	03/10/2005	Yes
8	Mukherjee Amit	2000.00	08/08/2005	Yes
9	Purandare S. R.	3000.00	25/04/2005	Yes
10	Sharma B. D.	2000.00	03/10/2005	Yes
11	Vir Geeta	500.00	3/10/2005	Yes

Programmes/Seminars/Press Meets

2. The following meetings took place during the year:

- Case study presentation of the 'Study' tour by the Women's and Child Welfare Committee at Yashada – 14.05.05,
- Talk followed by interaction with Mr. Lalit Kumar Jain, President, Promoters' Association Pune – 25.07.05,
- Public meeting with Municipal Commissioner, members of political parties and citizens on 'partaking in the budget formulating process in the PMC – 26.11.05,
- Participation in the public rally to protest against construction on hilltops and hill slopes – 27.11.05,
- Interaction with Municipal Commissioner – 19.12.05

Issues taken up with the Authorities and Progress

3. **Irregular Appointments:** The High Court dismissed the *Manch* PIL.

4. **Irregularities in the Grant of TDR:** The PMC irregularly granted transfer of development rights (TDR) to Balaji Hire as power of attorney holder of Prabhakar Krishnaji Hire and others. The *Manch* issued a legal notice through Advocate Chinmay Vaidya on 15 April 2006 calling upon the Municipal Commissioner to refer the matter to the State Government, to suspend any officials suspected to be involved in the irregularity, etc. The amount involved is over Rs.40 Crores.

5. **Misuse of Official Transport:** The *Manch* was successful in curbing misuse of vehicles allotted to office bearers of the PMC. The Municipal Commissioner issued a circular MC/130 dated 6 July 2005 issuing specific instructions to curb the misuse of vehicles purchased out of public funds. The *Manch* would now monitor the implementation of the instructions.

6. **Green DP:** The PMC wanted to allow construction on hilltops and hill slopes. The *Manch* supported and took part in the massive public rally and agitation against the mover of the PMC. Ultimately, the PMC approved the Green DP.

7. **Sky Bus Metro for Pune:** The *Manch* prepared a detailed critique on the DPR of Konkan Railway Corporation on the sky bus proposal. The *Manch* does not recommend the sky bus because it lacks safety certification and inadequate traffic data is used. The *Manch* approached the KRC with a request to discuss our critique. However, the KRC has shied away. Our efforts have borne fruit because so far the proposal has not seen the light of the day.

8. **Legal:** The following cases are in court at various stages filed by Manch members in conjunction with other activists or on behalf of the Manch:

- a. *Case 559/05 (Sessions Court) and 1/2005 (Municipal Court):* The case pertains to unauthorised use of public funds for a leisure trip by Women's Welfare Committee members to Dalhousie, Vaishno Devi, etc. The Magistrate of the Municipal Court issued process against the respondents, who appealed to the High Court with a prayer to squash the proceedings. The HC referred the matter to the Sessions Court. The matter rests awaiting the judgement.
- b. *Case 772/05 (Municipal Court):* The case pertains to a so-called study tour to Kolkata and Darjeeling by members of the Tree Authority of the PMC. The Court is hearing the case.

9. **Illegal Practice of Tabling Last Minute Resolutions:** The *Manch* reported to the Municipal Commissioner and succeeded in curbing largely the illegal practice of tabling last-minute resolutions tabled to give donations to certain chosen parties as it is against Rule 63 (1) of the Hand Book for Corporators.

10. **Creation of Posts in PMT:** The Standing Committee and the GB approved creation of 60 posts in the PMT. The *Manch* requested the Commissioner for review because the creation of posts violates Section 346 (2) (A) of BMC Act, 1949, which requires prior government approval and it suffers from some major deficiencies, e.g. no recommendations from GM, PMT, pay scales of unionised employees same as officers, etc. The administration has stayed processing of the proposal, although approved by the General Body.

11. **Budget Formulating Process:** *Nagrik Chetna Manch* organised a public meeting on 26 November 2005 to ascertain the views of the citizens of Pune on the PMC budget for 2006-07. The meeting was a great success and the PMC included a number of points from the citizens in the budget for 2006-07.

12. **Traffic & Transportation:** The Manch closely collaborates with the Pune Traffic & Transportation Forum (PTTF), which is in the forefront of the movement to improve the worsening traffic situation in Pune. PTTF has prepared plans for *Non-motorised Transport (NMT), Bus Rapid Transit, Metro Rail, Mass Transit System for Pune Metropolitan Region and Traffic & Transportation Plan for PMC:*

13. **Irregularities in Saras Hotel at Nehru Stadium:** The *Manch* found through RTI that Saras Hotel owes Rs. 73 lakhs to the PMC, which had not taken recovery action. The *Manch* is progressing the case.

10 October 2006