

Activities of Nagrik Chetna Manch
1 April 2006-31 March 2007

Donations

1. The *Manch* received following donations to its corpus totalling Rs. 309112/-:

Ser.	Donor	Donation	For PIL	Total
1	Citizens' Committee for Efficient Administration	180000		180000
2	Benninger Aneeta	2000		2000
3	Chaudhari Vaiju		10000	10000
4	Gidwani S.R.		501	501
5	Godbole M. V. Dr.		5000	5000
6	Jain P.C.	7000	5000	12000
7	Jatar S. C. N.	11375	5000	16375
8	Joglekar Adhiraj	1986		1986
9	Kabraji Kersee	10000		10000
10	Kudchadkar Vishal		22500	22500
11	Kulkarni S.V.		10000	10000
12	Kulkarni Uday		500	500
13	Kumbhar Vijay		500	500
14	Mishra Ramnarayan		500	500
15	Mohite S.A.		1000	1000
16	Nadkarni J. L.	3250		3250
17	Nair Pavan		1000	1000
18	Oswal Manoj		10000	10000
19	Pandit Santishree	1500		1500
20	Prasad B. H. K.		1000	1000
22	Purandare S.R.	6000		6000
23	Purandare V. R.	10000		10000
24	Ramdass S.S.		2000	2000
25	Sahasrabuddhe S. Y.	1000		1000
26	Vir Geeta	500		500
	TOTAL	234611	74501	309112

Programmes/Seminars/Press Meets

2. The following public meetings were conducted during the year:

- Lecture by Mr. PA Inamdar 4th Aug. 2006 on the 'Value of Police Effectiveness and Implementation';
- Presentation by Prof. J. G. Krishnayya on "The Collapse of the World Trade Centre's 3 towers (yes, **three**)",
- Talk by Prof. Ch. Hanumantha Rao on "BRTS – Planning & Execution" on 1st Feb. 2007

Issues taken up with the Authorities and Progress

Delays in Approval to Contracts

3. We have been vigorously following up the delays caused by the standing committee and the municipal commissioner and consulting with lawyers whether a PIL

could be filed. We had an article published on this with all the relevant data collected through the use of the RTI Act in Intelligent Pune.

Preventing Vehicular Pollution and Greening of Pune

4. Col. Chaudhari and Lt. Gen Mukherjee met with Mr. Yeshwant Khaire, Chief Garden Superintendent, PMC, who confirmed that suggestions made by **Manch** have indeed been incorporated in the PMC's development plan and is also reflected in the Annual Environmental Status Report of the PMC. **Manch** is constantly in touch with the concerned authorities to ensure that the needful is done.

Greening of Pune

5. **Nagrik Chetna Manch** has taken up a number of issues for greening of Pune with the PMC. The PMC convened a meeting of officials concerned and members of **Nagrik Chetna Manch** to discuss these issues.

6. While a plan for greening of Pune and construction of municipal gardens is under way, the increase in the density of concrete structures is greater. There is no planned plantation of shade trees alongside newly developed roads. The primary reason for this deficiency is that the definition of a road does not include obligatory plantation of trees or the provision of a service road. Even footpaths do not exist on new or widened roads. The existing development control rules are not environment friendly and do not provide adequate room for greening within the building complexes. Similarly, the existing norms for off-street parking also require an urgent review, both in the old city and in new areas. Due to inadequate off-street parking, the builders are re-appropriating areas reserved for planting trees for parking and encouraging parking of vehicles along side roads. This not only denudes tree cover because of inadequate compensation for the trees felled during construction but also creates traffic problems.

7. Except for Balewadi Sports Complex, Saras Baug Sports Ground and Nehru Stadium, there are no special arenas for games and sports. The result is that Pune is no more the cradle for nursing young sports talent. The authorities have now closed the playgrounds belonging to old schools and colleges to the general public and new educational institutions do not have adequate playgrounds. As school and college students, we were free to use all sports fields in Pune.

8. We have recommended a review of the entire scheme for greening of Pune and preparation of a master plan with special reference to the development plan and the development control rules, and plantation of shade trees in a planned manner. President NCM is a member of the steering committee for DP07 and these points are being regularly brought to the notice of the authorities.

Endeavour for a viable traffic and transport plan for Pune and PCMC

9. The **Manch** is having continuous interaction with the municipal commissioner as well as Additional City Engineer (T&T) and the steering committee for the Development Plan 2007. The PMC has finalised the Comprehensive Transport Policy for Pune Metropolitan Region in which the **Manch** has been an active participant. Further, a Comprehensive Mobility Plan is part of Development Plan 2007. The **Manch** is part of the Steering Committee of DP 07 and the municipal commissioner has agreed that our representative would be permitted to interact with IL&FS, which is preparing the CMP for Pune at every stage. Additionally, a metro is being planned for PMR. The **Manch** is part of the planning process for the same. We now have a railway sub-group in the **Manch** which would give valuable inputs for planning of all rail-based systems. All these issues as well issues relating to Road Repairs were also widely covered/taken up through/by the local as well national newspapers published from/circulated in Pune.

Creating Awareness of RTI Act amongst citizens

10. **Nagrik Chetna Manch** has been using the RTI Act extensively and making the citizens aware of the utility of the Act through personal interaction, guidance, workshops and publicity through the press. The **Manch** is planning to hold a presentation in PCMC

area shortly. RTI issues/articles published by the **Manch** were widely covered/taken up through/by the local as well national newspapers published from/circulated in Pune.

Cleanliness and Hygiene in City of Pune and PCMC

11. The **Manch** is interacting with the National Society of Clean Cities and has formed a sub-committee comprising M/s. Kabraji, P. C. Jain and Sanjiv Mehta who met with M/s. Gita Vir and Shiela Christian of NSCC to understand the nature of working being done. Subsequently Mr. Sanjiv Mehta and Col. Chaudhary met Leader of Opposition PMC along with Mr. Satish Khot , President NSCC to table their concerns about the initiatives being taken by PMC regarding garbage collection. **Nagrik Chetna Manch** has acted in unison with NSCC in this regard.

TDR and Bal Bharati (BB)-Paud Road) Cases Legal

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

13. *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.

14. *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.

15. The next hearing of TDR case is on 4 October when the **Manch** would submit its affidavit modifying the earlier petition.

16. The **Manch** obtained a stay on the construction of BB-Paud Road. Thw Municipal Commissioner formed an expert committee under the chairmanship of President *Nagrik Chetna Manch* to evaluate the necessity of the project, which submitted its recommendations to the Commissioner in October 2007. The Commssioner accepted the recommendations and the PMC has now commenced traffic surveys and an EIA study to determine whether the road is viable. Until then the stay continues.

Personal interaction with Municipal Commissioner

17. This is a continuing process and a very close liaison is maintained with the municipal commissioner and other officers of the PMC.

Nagrik Chetna Manch

15 January 2007