

Profile - Nagrik Chetna Manch

The Origin

Nagrik Chetna Manch was launched on August 15, 1991. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 vide certificate # Maharashtra/6199-91 dated 17 December 1991 and under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1960 vide certificate # F-7352 (Pune) dated 24 February 1992.

Nagrik Chetna Manch is a non-political organisation, non-profit organisation open to all citizens and not affiliated to any political party. The Manch seeks issue-based support from the media and the public and networks with other like-minded NGOs to lend force to issues that the Manch takes up. The Manch largely comprises of senior company executives, professionals, social workers, retired defence officers and civil servants, etc who do not have any political affiliation.

The founder President was Late Lt. Gen. Y. D. Sahasrabudhe, Retd. Late Mr M. G. Katre and Late Ms Sarla Datar succeeded Lt. Gen. Sahasrabudhe. Each of the above had one three-year tenure. Maj. Gen. S. C. N. Jatar (Retd) completed three three year tenures as President and is now designated as President Emeritus. Currently the President is Col. B.F. Chaudhari (Retd) with effect from February 2017.

Our Mission

To inculcate thrift and scrupulous behaviour at various levels, and to bring transparency in governance by functioning as an active pressure group and conscience-keeper of the Society at large.

Our Objectives

1. To bring transparency in governance and eradicate corruption by using the RTI Act 2005 extensively.
2. To take steps to ensure that the citizens have an acceptable level of services, such as public transport, equitable water supply, proper management / handling of MSW, good health and clean environment.
3. To improve the quality of life of every citizen.
4. To prevent wasteful expenditure in society – both public & private – at the local and national levels.

The Strategy

1. To be assiduously apolitical.
2. To build a membership of experienced senior corporate executives, professionals, social workers, retired defence officers & civil servants, etc. with a good record and public orientation.

3. To ensure that all proposals taken up by the Manch are within the four corners of the law and are ethical.
4. To carry out detailed studies on every issue that the Manch takes up to understand its social, political, technical, economic and financial implications.
5. To use any or all means - be it arbitration, negotiation, lobbying, activism, pressure group, courts etc. - to deliver on the purpose of the Manch.
6. To seek the co-operation of like-minded persons & organizations (including the media) to lend force to issues that the Manch addresses.
7. To act as catalysts with other NGOs for implementation and achieving the objectives of our Mission.
8. To raise the level of awareness / affirmative action by the public at large on matters that affect the long-term quality of human life & welfare.
9. To ensure a safe, clean, green, hygienic environment within the country and more particularly under PMC & PCMC jurisdiction.

Overall Image of the Manch

An institution that has a positive outlook is ethical and does not support politicians and policies that obstruct growth and development.

Projects that are taken up by the Manch

National

1. UID Aadhaar Card

Pune

2. Public Transport, BRTS and Metro.
3. Municipal Solid Waste Management and Handling.
4. Equitable water supply.
5. Development Plan, City Development Plan and Regional Plan.
6. Protection and preservation of trees.
7. Flyovers as per IRC specifications, laws in force and industry practices.
8. Speed-breakers, dividers & grates according to IRC norms
8. Public Interest Litigations, Writ Petitions, Regular Civil and Criminal Suits, applications to National Green Tribunal, complaints to the Competition Commission of India, Anti Corruption Bureau, etc. concerning any matter of public interest falling within the ambit of our Mission and Objectives.

Activities & Impact

➤ Comprehensive Transport Policy

The Manch has played a proactive role in finalising the note on Comprehensive Transport Policy for Pune Municipal Corporation. One member of the Manch was a member of the committee for its preparation. The General Body of PMC has approved the policy document.

➤ Traffic Advisory Committee of Pune Police

The Manch has representation on the Traffic Advisory Committee of Pune Police.

➤ Repair, Maintenance & Service Committee for BRTS

The Manch has representation on this committee, which was formed by order of the Commissioner on 20/03/2018 to ensure course correction of the myriad errors committed by PMC while constructing Pilot BRTS & Phase-1 BRTS

➤ Comprehensive Mobility Plan

The Manch was also part of a committee formed by the PMC for preparing a comprehensive mobility plan (CMP) for PMR. Wilbur Smith Associates has prepared the CMP on behalf of IL&FS. After WSA finalised the CMP, the GB formed a committee in 2008 of a member each from the representative political parties to consider it, which failed to do so. The Commissioner then again placed the policy document before the general body of the PMC for approval in 2012 and the GB approved it in May 2012 with a proviso that all projects sanctioned by the GB would form part of the CMP. NCM views this as a negation of the CMP prepared by world-renowned experts and considers that there is no clear approval to the CMP.

➤ Steering Committee for Preparation of Development Plan 2007

A member from the Manch was on the steering committee for preparation of Development Plan 2007 and is the convenor of its traffic & transportation sub-committee. The PMC is yet to finalise the DP. NCM had recommended that the draft DP be scrapped because it had not followed the laws of the land but mostly catered to the requirements of various lobbies with active connivance of councillors. The State Government has now cancelled the DP and a formed a Committee to finalise it. The PMC is in the process of challenging the decision of the State Government in High Court.

➤ Road & Traffic Management Committee of MCCIA

The Manch was represented on the Road & Traffic Management Committee of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MCCIA).

➤ Encroachments & Unauthorised structures\

The Manch has actively taken up with the PMC the question of encroachments on front margins / footpaths / pavements and unauthorised constructions. The Manch brought to the notice of the Municipal Commissioner the existence of a circular issued by the PMC in February 2001, which indirectly granted extra FSI to the builders and allowed encroachments on footpaths / pavements by allowing construction of ottas in front of commercial shops. The PMC has cancelled the circular. The PMC has put the list of unauthorised constructions on its website at www.punecorporation.org although it requires updating. The Manch is continuously monitoring the removal of encroachments and unauthorised constructions. However, there is need for the Manch to take up this issue more vigorously.

➤ The Manch is represented on the Committee formed by the Board of Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd to prepare a Business Plan. A number of meetings have been held and a consultant selected for the job. This is work in progress.

➤ People's Commission of Enquiry (PCI)

The then Municipal Commissioner, Shri Mahesh Zagade had put up a proposal to the Standing Committee dated 23 June 2010 to appoint a committee headed by a retired judge of the High Court with senior retired IAS officer as a member. The committee was to inquire into the encroachments, unauthorised constructions, occupation without occupation certificates, diverting the natural watercourses etc. to pin point the responsibility and then to suggest ways to ensure that such occurrences do not recur. As the Standing Committee failed to take any decision, the Manch along with Surajya Sangharsh Samiti approached Justice P. B. Sawant (Retd) formerly of the Supreme Court, to head a People's Commission of Inquiry (PCI). He readily agreed and desired to work without any remuneration. We thus launched the Pune PCI on 15 October 2010. The PCI followed all the norms and principles governing an official Public Commission of Inquiry and forwarded the findings to Pune Municipal Corporation for action. PCI completed the hearings for 22 complaints from 16 to 18 March 2011 and from 8 to 10 June 2011. PCI completed the process from 16-20 August 2011, hearings of 9 matters. There were very few complainants who wanted to see through an issue till its end. Two of the major complainants have now changed their mobile numbers without informing us with the result that we are no longer in contact with them. The complainants expect NCM to pursue the cases, which we do not do on principle.

A few complainants appear to have compromised with the PMC as they had suddenly lost interest in pursuing the matters. There were two cases where PMC had agreed to give us information but stopped short because there was change in PMC Commissioner. We processed these and all other cases where Justice P. B. Sawant has passed judgments and PMC was to take action by using the RTI Act 2005. There was partial success.

➤ Occupation without completion or occupation certificate

As for unauthorised constructions and occupation of buildings without completion or occupation certificates, the main culprit is MSEDCL. It is axiomatic that there can be no occupation without electricity. There are two types of unauthorised constructions:

- a. In old buildings where additional construction is done, the citizen applies for assessment of property tax even before obtaining completion certificate or occupying the premises. PMC readily does so because it is in need of revenue. Further, charging property tax even for unauthorised buildings is legal as per a High Court judgment. Once the citizen obtains tax payment certificate, he or she applies

for electricity connection. As per the Electricity Rules, MSEDCL has to verify that the premises are occupied before giving the connection. Instead of demanding occupation certificate, the MSEDCL relies on tax payment receipt and gives electric connection. The citizen moves in and is not concerned with obtaining completion or occupation certificate anymore and is free to build as much unauthorised construction as he or she possibly can.

- b. In the case of new construction (e.g. housing complexes), the developer applies for charging the meters once he obtains part completion for a few apartments that he has constructed in full. At the commencement of construction, the developer has assessed the requirement of basic electrical infrastructure (sub-station, meter boards etc.) from MSEDCL, which developer completes along with before completing construction of apartments. After obtaining part completions for a few apartments, the developer applies to the MSEDCL to charge all electric meters in the complex, even those that do not have completion certificates. MSEDCL obliges. Thus the developer is free to resort to all kinds of unauthorised acts because the citizens move in half completed or illegally built flats, as there is electricity provision.
- c. Justice Sawant too has ruled in our favour. We had approached MERC earlier but lost the case. There appears to be realisation amongst the authorities that the main culprits are the urban local bodies and MSEDCL. There are moves within the government in this regard. The Manch is satisfied that we have made the authorities aware of this malaise. Recently, the High Court, in its judgment in WP No. 829 of 2013, has reiterated that it is illegal to move into a building without an occupation certificate.
- d. The awareness created by the Manch appears to have borne fruit because the Government is veering round to the view that illegal constructions should not be provided with any facilities. The NCM awaits an official declaration to that effect.

➤ Misuse of official vehicles

Nagrik Chetna Manch succeeded in prevailing upon the Commissioner to curb misuse of official vehicles, especially outstation to places of tourist/religious interests by the councillors. Accordingly, the Commissioner issued a circular that a councillor may visit places outside PMC area only on written approval by the Mayor/Commissioner, failing which the administration would initiate disciplinary action against employees concerned who have permitted the vehicles to proceed outside PMC limits. Thus, Nagrik Chetna Manch succeeded in enabling the recovery of close to Rs. 75 Lakhs in 2004-06 as dues from the councillors. The Manch continues to pressurise the PMC in this regard.

➤ Right to Information Act 2005

The Manch acts as a pressure group by continuously invoking the Right to Information Act, 2005 to get information and take up public interest litigations, where necessary. E.g. on expenses connected with official cars, holiday tours undertaken under the guise of study tours, construction of environmentally harmful Bal Bharati-Paud Road, misuse of transfer of development rights at Kothrud, unauthorised constructions and encroachments, conversion of forest land into residential without authority, construction of flyovers without proper justification, direct and indirect compulsion for Aadhaar card, lapses in implementation of BRTs according to accepted concepts & features, installation of information boards on public work sites, commencement of road construction work without Detailed Project Reports and acquisition of land, loss of land revenue by Collector, etc.

➤ Information Boards on Public Sites

The Manch has vigorously taken up the issue that all PMC's departments, its contractors; third parties who are issued work order must adhere to installing information boards as part of dissemination of relevant information of on-going works at public sites. These boards should display title of project, start & end date, name & contact of contractor, as well as name & contact of supervising PMC officer. After much follow-up, it was agreed by the PMC Additional Municipal Commissioner on 14th November 2014 that instructions would be passed to concerned departments. Yet again after prolonged follow-up with Road Department, this important point was incorporated in the work order. It was followed by the contractors and third parties for just one month, after which it stopped when rampant digging was on-going before end of financial year 31st March 2015. Another issue which the Manch has taken up that there should be a single window created in PMC for this purpose of application for digging by third parties as well as PMC departments themselves. And necessary approval of the same. This would result in weeding out of unauthorized digging which is making a huge dent in public exchequer. Our continued perseverance on this has culminated in the creation of the Trenching Policy which exists on paper. But not in spirit.

➤ Bus Rapid Transport System

The Manch has been at the forefront of a relentless follow-up on the BRTS transport issue since 2006 when the BRT Pilot Project was being mooted. The Manch has supported the network of a qualitative and efficient public transport system. However, we have insisted on execution & implementation of the same according to accepted concepts and features of BRTS. The Pilot project is an abject failure today, with PMC cannibalising the median BRT meant for public transport (at the cost of Rs. 130 crores), by making way for flyovers & grade-separator for private transport (at a projected budget of plus Rs. 200 crores).

PMC not being satisfied with just one failure of the Pilot BRT Project, took up another one on the Nagar Road-Sangamwadi-Vishrantwadi corridor at the cost of about ₹

1100 crores. This too has been followed up relentlessly after receiving almost 10,000 documents from JnNURM department PMC, UDD Maharashtra & Ministry of Urban Development, all through RTI applications over two years. The Manch has also sent an application for constitution of an enquiry commission to probe into irregularities, mismanagement, misuse and delay in project completion. And to bring to book those found guilty of negligence and dereliction.

Recent developments are that PMC has started constructing 68 more km BRTS on various routes. Errors are being committed on all these corridors as well as there is no Detailed Project Report, Feasibility, Pre-Feasibility, Financial Feasibility, Environment Impact Assessment, Socio-Economic Impact and Public Outreach prior start-up.

The Manch has collaborated with Habitat Forum (INHAF), a non-profit society set up in 1999 and with Sustainable Initiatives to prepare a study on BRTS in Pune as a guide for the future BRTS constructions in India. The work is almost complete and likely to be put in the public domain shortly.

➤ Brief to NITI Aayog on PMC's SWM model

In the backdrop of PMC's presentation to NITI Aayog on "Motivating citizens and administration for zero waste cities: the case of Pune, NCM sent a detailed analysis to counter PMC's unsubstantiated claims. PMC does not practise 'zero waste' or the basic principal of "Avoid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Treat and Dispose" both of which are simple to enforce with minimal costs. Unfortunately PMC resorts to high cost projects which ultimately do not work for the purpose they were installed.

➤ Pune's high rating by Swachch Bharat Mission is questionable

Since the Swachch Bharat Mission was launched three years ago, Pune's Swachch Sarvekshan Ranking (#11 in 2016, # 13 in 2017 and # 10 in 2018) is questionable in contradiction to ground reality. During the past six months, the Manch has submitted proof of photographs from various citizens from different parts of Pune. This is perhaps because governance is in self-deniable in order to justify Pune's Smart City listing.

➤ Brief on Restriction on use of plastic in the packaging industry to NGT

As part of an on-going hearing with NGT New Delhi, NCM sent a comprehensive paper to support the application on prohibition on the use of plastic packaging in non-essential items. In 2018, the State has enforced ban on plastics through a notification. But it was done without any strategic planning because of which the State is gradually retracting. The Manch is pursuing this matter.

➤ Re-location according to Hawkers Policy

Manch has been regularly following up with PMC on re-location of Hawkers as per designated categories, eviction of illegal ones from earmarked, 45 non-hawking main roads and 147 main chowks. And establishing 288 hawking zones. Complete eviction of cooked food vendors as they are not considered street hawkers in accordance to PIL no. 224 of 2013.

➤ Lack of approval of Draft Bye-Laws by the State

Manch has been regularly following by with the State Govt. on approval of Draft Bye-Laws on Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya and other insect & mosquito-borne diseases 2013 & Draft Bye-Laws on Solid Waste Management 2016 which would be a basic requirement for any city that aspires to be SMART

➤ Lack of Standard Documents, Surveys before Commencement of Transport related Projects

PMC lacks the requirement of preparing a Detailed Project Report, Feasibility, Pre-Feasibility, Financial Feasibility, Environment Impact Assessment, Traffic Survey before starting projects worth crores of rupees of public funds. Due to since the projects starts but mainly gets stuck due to land acquisitions issues. The Manch has started a demand with PMC on the importance of this in order to improve judicious utilisation of public funds.

➤ Pressurising the Central Govt to investigate and audit projects under erstwhile JnNURM funding

Several projects constructed under finance received from JnNURM have not been executed to achieve it's desired impact because of lapses, failures on the part of the administration. Details of which were received through RTI Act 2005 applications. Hence NCM has provided proof to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs to demand audit and investigation to bring to book the officials involved.

➤ For details refer to NCM's recommendations, papers, correspondence & opinions in the press on the NCM link under related subjects).

Court Cases

It is to be noted that so far all interim orders have been in favour of the Manch in all the cases. When the Court admits a case, it means that prima facie the points made by the petitioner are accepted for arguments. He said this clarification is necessary because an impression lurks in the minds of many that approaching courts or tribunals is a waste of time and money because of delays. However, it is emphasised that courts may take long to finally dispose of a case, but interim orders keep the respondents on toes and acting as a pressure group falls as one of the objectives of the Manch. The status of court cases is as follows:

1. **Visit of Women and Children to Vaishnodevi:** In Municipal Court RCS 1 of 2005 and WP-3189-2009. Having lost the case both in the lower court and the District Court, then PMC Commissioner TC Benjamin has filed a writ petition on 03.12.2009 in Bombay HC contending that the District Court does not have jurisdiction to try the case and has obtained an interim stay. The case has been admitted. The last date was 18.11.2011.
2. **Tree Authority:** HC CP 610-2014 in Bombay High Court. The case has been admitted. We have submitted two affidavits and the matter has come on board for 18.07.2018.
3. **TDR case PIL 127-2006 in Bombay High Court:** The case has been admitted. After amending the original application as ordered by the Court on 21.03.2014, the matter has not come up for hearing. The web site shows the last date as 04.08.2017 on which date the matter did not come up for hearing.
4. **Bal Bharati Pud Road PIL 156-2006 in Bombay High Court:** The Court ruled in our favour. Its order dated 15.01.2016 refers. The Court squashed the construction of the road due to its basic contention that the approving authority did not apply its mind to the environmental aspect while approving the road. Now the road has been included in the DP 2007 (Current DP) and approved by the State Government but without applying its mind to the environmental aspect. Hence, the NCM took up with the PMC that in case the road construction has to be progressed, the PMC must apply its mind to the environmental aspect establish the need for the road. The PMC acceded to our request and agreed to consult with the Manch, Parisar, Pedestrians First and Centre for Development Studies and Activities at every stage of planning. The PMC has sent out an RFP after consulting with the Manch and have requested that we should check the technical scrutiny to decide on the Consultants. The NCM representative is in continuous dialogue with the PMC and takes an active part in finalising the Consultants for EIA and traffic study.
5. **COEP flyover PIL 73-2010 in Bombay High Court:** The case has been admitted. The last hearing took place on 4 June 2018. Adv Ankit Kulkarni represented NCM. To start with, Justice Oka asked whether the flyover is completed, which was answered in the affirmative. Adv Ankit brought out that the congestion on both flyovers (Magarpatta & CoEP) has shifted from road level to the level of the flyovers for which he showed two newspaper clippings from Lokmat that NCM had sent him. He also told the Court that PMC has not adhered to its commitment to construct a subway for students to walk across from the Hostels to the College nor erected sound barriers to deflect sound from the class rooms. PMC has only marked a pedestrian crossing for the students and staff to cross over from one wing of the CoEP to the other. PMC has also not taken any precautionary measures to protect the heritage buildings of the CoEP from sound and GHG emissions. Further, it is essential that accountability is established because more than Rs 100 crores has been sent without achieving the intended result. The Judge

said that these demands should be put in the form of prayers in our petitions and as such, we should consider amending our original petition with these prayers added. NCM has given a brief to the lawyer to prepare the amendment. The next date will be given after the amendment is submitted.

6. **Aadhaar WP 932-2013 in Supreme Court:** The hearings were completed on 20.03.2018. Adv Chander Uday Singh represented NCM. A brief on the final NCM affidavit is as follows: (a) The Aadhaar Project and the Aadhaar Act as a whole are unconstitutional (and even voluntary use may not be permitted), (b) Alternatively, voluntary use of Aadhaar may be permitted, provided there are added safeguards and it is not made mandatory, (c) In any event, if the broad argument is not accepted, the Court must examine each specific domain in which Aadhaar has been effectively made mandatory, and subject it to a proportionality analysis. (d) Alternatively, the Court may at least consider striking down or reading down specific sections of the Aadhaar Act and specific regulations that violate constitutional rights, and reading in other requirements. We now await the judgement of the Supreme Court.
7. **Rochem PIL 18–2015 in Bombay High Court:** NCM intervened in this PIL. As for all cases involving intervention, the primary role is that of the original applicant i.e. Harshvardhan Modak in this PIL. The HC transferred the case to NGT. NGT is re-thinking whether the matter should be reverted to the HC because NCM has raised a policy issue regarding approval to a failed foreign technology being brought into India.
8. **24-hour Composting Case 190-2016 with NGT Pune Bench:** The matter has been heard on a number of occasions. The MPCB has failed to provide the chemical analysis of the compost even after being instructed to do so by the Bench. The Bench did not sit on the last date 05.03.18. The next dated is awaited.
9. **CCI-Collusive Bidding MSW Case No 50-2015:** The CCI has ruled in our favour. Considering contravention of provisions of the Act, an amount of INR 13.07 Lakhs, INR 45.20 Lakhs, INR 42 Lakhs, INR 1.51 Crores, INR 3.36 Crores and INR 30.55 Lakhs was computed as leviable penalty on six firms namely Fortified, Ecoman, Lahs Green, Sanjay Agencies, Mahalakshmi and Raghunath, respectively, in terms of Section 27 (b) of the Act. Additionally, considering totality of facts and circumstances of the case, penalty leviable on individual officials of four firms namely Ecoman, Lahs Green, Sanjay Agencies and Raghunath was computed at the rate of 10 percent of their average income for the same three years. All six firms approached CCI as lesser penalty applicants. As such, CCI fined the companies as follows: on Mahalkshmi INR 1.68 crore, on Lahs Green INR 21 Lakh, on Sanjay Agencies INR 90.64 Lakh and on Ecoman was INR 33.90 Lakhs. The companies have now appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal against the penalties. So far, NCLAT has not fixed a date for hearing.

10. **CCI-Collusive Bidding Tree Census-Case No. 12-2017:** The CCI Board has directed the DG, CCI to carry out an inquiry as the NCM has established a prima facie case. Maj. Gen. Jatar was called for discussions by the Joint DG on 22.02.2018. NCM has submitted the additional documents as required.
11. **PIL no. 50 / 2017 in Bombay High Court :** pertains to non-compliant processes that have been followed for selection / co-option of Non-Government and / or Social Organisation representatives on Pune Municipal Corporation's Ward Committees whose terms by law are supposed to be co-terminus with the elected municipal representatives during the 5 year terms of the local municipal corporation as per MMC Act 1949. In addition, there is breach of the provisions under 74th Amendment to the Indian Constitution which was enacted for devolution and decentralisation of powers to local urban authorities. Earlier, NCM had filed PIL no.62 / 2016 which had been disposed by CJI who directed PMC to revert to all compliances sought by NCM. PMC deliberately misunderstand our prayer. So we filed another PIL in the same matter. Our advocates are pressing for an early date.

Discussions & Interactions

The Manch invites top officials of authorities and experts at least 3-4 times a year to address NCM members and associate NGO members. The functions have always evoked excellent response.

- On 29th June 2018, the Manch invited Mr Kiran Gitte, Commissioner Pune Metropolitan Region and CEO Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority who enlightened members and guests present on the challenges and future plans of the complete conglomerate of 2 corporations, 3 cantonment boards, 7 municipal councils and 13 census towns and 842 villages spread over an area of 7,256.46 km².
- On 4th August 2017, an interactive session with Col. Suresh Patil on Rejuvenation of Panshet Dam has been organized.
- On 15th June 2017, an interactive session with Ms. Anita Gokhale-Benninger, renowned Urban Town Planner on Pune Development Plan
- On 22nd March 2017, an informative session with Mr Ramesh Rao & Mr Limaye was arranged on the proposed Pune Metro System
- On 21st April 2016, the Manch arranged an interaction with Dr. Usha Ramanathan who spoke on "The Aadhar Act 2016 – It's impact on citizens". Because of the public interest, this program was very well attended
- On 10th February 2016, Mr S. Chokalingam, IAS Divisional Commissioner Pune spoke to NCM members on "Control of Corruption & Success Story of the Corruption Eradication Committee"

- On 12th June 2015, the Manch arranged a presentation by Prof. Pratap Rawal, a highly qualified Town Planner whose research areas cover Sustainability, Urban & Regional Development, Planning and Infrastructure as well as Strategic Environmental Assessment. He proceeded to de-mystify the crisis in Pune's Draft Development Plan 2007-2027 and the way forward.
- On 12th November 2014, an interaction with Mr Satish Mathur, Police Commissioner. Mr Sarang Awad, DCP Traffic and Mr Solunke, Additional CP Crime accompanied him. Discussion covered traffic issues, security issues, methods to decrease crime figures, training of police personnel amongst wide ranging topics.
- On 4th August 2012, a Panel Discussion was arranged on the Garbage Conundrum. There was representation from PMC, MPCB and Ranjai (a NGO). The discussion was very lively. There was marginal improvement in the working of the PMC towards segregating the garbage at source as per the orders of the Central and State Governments and the Supreme Court. It was the best-attended event of the Manch with an attendance of over 250 persons. We have been monitoring the implementation of MSW Management and Handling Rules, 2000 and find that there is much to be desired. PMC has set up plants, which accept mixed garbage with the result that there is no incentive either to the citizens to segregate garbage at source as per existing instructions or for the PMC to implement segregation. The result is that mixed garbage is being used and the by products mainly Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and manure, both of which are contaminated. This is because PMC is not ensuring segregation of even hazardous materials from MSW (Municipal Solid Waste). Both major plants of PMC (Hanjer and Rochem) suffer from this drawback. Rochem is worse because it is located within 100 meters of residential area and has not been planned as an integral part of the landfill site as mandated in the MSW M&H Rules, 2000. The Manch has handed over the matter of illegalities in Rochem plant causing a loss to the PMC of over ₹. 10 crores so far. The main illegality is that the plants do not have 'consent under the Air Act and the Water Act. Further, the PMC pays ₹ 300 or more per tonne of MSW accepted by the private parties. This is where all the trouble lies because PMC's incentive is not to segregate at source so that the private parties get more MSW and hence more the so-called 'tipping fee'.
- On 7th June 2012, a panel discussion was arranged on "24/7 water – a myth or a reality". It was a very relevant issue and evoked great interest from the large gathering who interacted profusely with the panel members.
- On 11th August 2011, Mr Abhay Firodia addressed NCM members on Jan Lokpal Bill and Anna Hazare movement.
- On 30th March 2008, a seminar was organised on "Ethics and Values towards Good Governance" on 30 March 2008. It was one of the best-attended events of the Manch with an attendance of over 220 persons.

- In September 2001, a workshop was arranged for the engineers of PMC on construction and repairs of roads including the norms for speed breakers etc.
- On 4th March 2001, a seminar was conducted on Earthquake Relief & Rescue Plan.

Current Membership

Currently the Manch has a membership of 100, out of which 96 are life members.

Managing Committee

The Managing Committee as on 30 June 2018 comprises the following:

- Col. B. F. Choudhari (Retd), President
- Mr B. D. Sharma, Secretary General
- Ms. Qaneez Sukhrani, Secretary
- Mr Praskash Andhare, Treasurer
- Wg. Cdr. Ashutosh Mashruwala, Joint Secretary
- Ms. Roda Mehta, Member
- Lt. Gen. Amit Mukherjee (Retd), Member
- Col. Jayant Nadkarni (Retd), Member
- Mr P. C. Jain, Member
- Mr Nilkanth Jatar, Member

Permanent Invitee → Maj. Gen. S. C. N. Jatar (Retd), President Emeritus