Mandate

Pune has always been a hub of learning, scholarship, values, enlightened thinking and action and, in recent years, of entrepreneurship as well. The city today boasts of the presence of thought leaders from all walks of life.

What it misses though is a meeting point for all such minds. A place where, in an intellectually stimulating and nurturing environment, discussions and debates can be held about the future of Pune, India and the world. Other cities have such meeting places. In New Delhi, for example, India International Centre (IIC) provides such an ambience. Over the past fifty or so years, it has played a unique cultural and intellectual role in the life of the citizens. In Goa, there is International Centre, Goa (ICG). Then there is the Bangalore International Centre.

Three individuals with a distinguished record of public service in India and abroad – Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, Dr. Vijay Kelkar and Dr. Dileep Padgaonkar conceived the idea of an international centre in Pune. The idea of setting up the Pune International Centre (PIC) received prompt and enthusiastic support.

Aware of the city’s role during the freedom struggle, its pioneering contribution to social reforms and liberal politics, its reputation as a crucible of educational, scientific, literary and artistic endeavours and its emergence as a centre of high-end entrepreneurial activity, the three were determined to enrich and enlarge this legacy. As time progressed, more eminent people joined them and soon the idea gathered momentum. The PIC, they reckoned, would provide a platform to all and, in particular, to our younger generation who wished to promote innovative, progressive thinking in all fields of public life.

PIC is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1880 and the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.
Aims and objectives

To create a platform for open discussion and for stimulating debates by mobilizing the intellectual resources with which the city of Pune is so richly endowed.

To promote activities and programmes with a strong emphasis on the involvement of youth so as to inspire a new generation to create positive social change based on values enshrined in the UN Charter and the Indian Constitution.

To undertake, organize and facilitate study courses, conferences, seminars, lectures in matters relating to all-round socio-economic and cultural development of the city of Pune in particular and the nation in general.

To undertake, facilitate and provide for the publication of newsletters, research papers and books and of a journal for the exposition of emerging cultural and socio-economic patterns and values.

To establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate the spread of new information and knowledge and also to study cultures and socio-economic conditions across the world.

To offer prizes and grant scholarships in furtherance of the objects of the Centre.

To provide a forum for the promotion of visual and performing arts and also literature.

To do or get done, all such other lawful things as are conducive to the attainment of the above aims and objectives.

to promote
an environment for free and fair public debates

to provide
a platform to promote arts and culture

to create
a world class think tank

to provide
a forum for liberal intellectuals
The essence of the Centre is to foment ideas through the interaction of thinking people. It will engender sensitivity through patronage of the muses. Its architecture must mirror these virtues through the celebration of coming together! Its spaces must be catalysts of considered and articulate discourse, and introspective reflection. The spirit of the place must kindle humanity’s most noble instincts.

Dr. Christopher Benninger

* design of the building is subject to modifications
The new building for the Pune International Centre (PIC) shall accommodate a wide variety of spaces for people to meet, discuss, debate, perform, exhibit and reflect.

The campus shall be a TERI-Griha Five Star Green Building
A central, enclosed garden-plaza will accommodate a small amphitheatre, plants and an al fresco café. It is the connecting element of the design, bringing people informally together.

These facilities shall include a number of galleries and exhibition halls that can also be used as meeting rooms, or for small dance and music recitals.

There will be an auditorium that accommodates four hundred people for lectures, dramas, films and dance. A large convention hall that will be divisible down into three seminar rooms or combinations thereof.

There shall be a library, a computer centre, a yoga centre, and the PIC secretariat.
There will be an **ATM**, a **gourmet café** and **fine dining facilities**

There will be a **scholar's guest house** for visiting scientists, writers, artists and musicians. There will be about forty comfortable rooms and two suites.

**A modern kitchen** will facilitate all of these activities.

The facility will include infrastructure and amenities like rest rooms, fire stairs and fire fighting, elevators, air handling unit rooms, housekeeping and maintenance engineers offices. There will be podium parking for about three hundred cars.

**The structure will be constructed from durable, fire resistant materials that are easy to maintain. Warm, natural colors and vibrant art works will set the tone.**
* design of the building is subject to modifications
Members

The trustees, honorary members and founder members of Pune International Centre include nationally and internationally known personalities from various fields including academia, sports, art, culture, science and business.

R.A. Mashelkar  Vijay Kelkar  Dileep Padgaonkar  Anu Aga
Babasaheb Purandare  FORMER PRESIDENT  Abdul Kalam  Chandu Borde
Abhay Firodia  Ashok Ganguly  Farid Zakaria  Govind Swarup
Javed Akhtar  Kishori Amonkar  Lata Mangeshkar  Mangesh Padgaonkar
Nandan Nilekani  Jayant Narlikar  Madhav Gadgil
Rahul Bajaj  Sachin Tendulkar  Sai Paranjape  Shabana Azmi  Abhay Bang
Sunil Gavaskar  Vijaya Mehta  Bhushan Gokhale
Atul Kirloskar  Pramod Chaudhari  Jabbar Patel  Vijay Bhatkar
Sharadchandra Gokhale  Mohan Dharia  Suman Kirloskar
Ravi Pandit  Baba Kalyani  Naushad Forbes  Kiran Karnik
Anant Patwardhan  Pratap Pawar  Narendra Jahdav
Shantaram Mujumdar  Avinash Dixit  Arun Firodia  Ajit Nimbalkar
Satish Magar  Mukesh Malhotra  Suresh Pingale
Anil Supnekar  Prabhakar Karandikar  Rahul Dravid
PIC was launched on 24th of September 2011 by Mr. Mohan Dharia. Mr. Nandan Nilekani, Chairperson, UIDAI delivered the inaugural lecture. More than a thousand citizens of Pune attended the launch ceremony.

7th October 2011
Release of Book ‘Eclipse: Living in the shadow of China’s Economic Dominance’ by Prof. Arvind Subramanian, senior fellow, the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Centre for Global Development. The book release was followed by a panel discussion. The panelists included: Ambassador Ronen Sen, IFS (Retd), Lt. General S. Mehta, Indian Army (Retd), Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Former Finance Secretary, Government of India, Mr. Chetan Tolia, Director, Tata Management Training Centre.

22nd December 2011
Roundtable on ‘Corporate Governance’ chaired by: Mr. C.B. Bhave, IAS (Retd) Former Chairperson, SEBI. The Round Table was attended by experts from industry and academia. Mr. Vikas Deshmukh, Former MD, TATA Elxsi and Former Chairperson, CC-Karnataka moderated the discussions. Essence of these deliberations and interactions thereafter were used as basis of policy paper on ‘Corporate Governance’ published by PIC on 26th March 2012.

26th December 2011
Lecture on ‘Thinking strategically’ by Prof. Avinash Dixit, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Princeton University. It was followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Prakash Hebbalakar, an industry thought leader. The lecture, panel discussion and QnA focused on strategic thinking and application of Game Theory in the world of Business, Economics, International relations as well as day to day life.
3rd January 2012
Book Release: ‘Reinventing India’, by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, FRS and National Research Professor. The book release was followed by a Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. Dileep Padgaonkar, eminent journalist. The panelists included Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, FRS, National Research Professor, Prof. Anil Gupta, Professor, IIM-Ahmedabad, Dr. G.D. Yadav, Vice Chancellor, ICT, Mumbai, Shri. Pramod Chaudhari, Chairman, Praj Industries.

11th January 2012
Panel Discussion on ‘Dealing With Climate Change: Why India should Lead’ chaired by Dr. Madhav Gadgil, eminent ecologist and PIC honorary member. Key Note address was delivered by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Recipient on behalf of IPCC as its Chairman.

18th February 2012
PIC in association with PRAYAS organised a Round Table on ‘Electricity for all’, chaired by Hon. Shri. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Former Union Minister for Power.

26th March 2012
Release of the Report on ‘Corporate Governance’ Chaired by Hon. Union Minister Dr. Veerappa Moily. Mr. Vikas Deshmukh and other founder members of PIC along with some experts from industry and academia came together to progress further on deliberations of PIC Roundtable on ‘Corporate Governance’ on 22nd December 2011.

1st - 3rd June 2012
The Inner Path: A Festival of Buddhist Films in association with NFAI (National Film Archive of India) and BORI (Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute) was inaugurated by noted actor Shri. Kabir Bedi.
7th July 2012


2nd August 2012

PIC Round-Table on ‘Energy & Environment Dilemma and its Impact on National Security’. It was chaired by Dr. Arvind Gupta, DG, IDSA, Delhi. The Panellist included Prof. Amitav Mallik, Former Member, NSAB; Gen SCN Jatar (Rtd), President, Nagarik Chetana Manch; Prof Arun Dalvi, Director, NISDA; Prof Sanjeev Ghotge, Jt Director, WISE; AM Bhushan Gokhale (Rtd), Adviser to PSA & DG, DRDO. More than 80 distinguished energy experts were in attendance for the round table. Former President of India, Dr. APJ Kalam addressed the final session attended by over 400 attendees, including the energy experts.

24th September 2012 - First Foundation Day.

‘Statecraft & Governance in India’ a lecture by Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, President, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. Dr. R.A. Mashlekar, President of PIC shared with PIC Members the progress of PIC activities and its future plans.

9th October, 2012

Talk by Dr. Vijay Kelkar on ‘Road Map for Fiscal Consolidation’

Noted economist, Vice President PIC Dr. Vijay Kelkar, highlighted on the strategies suggested by Kelkar committee (a report submitted to Hon. Finance Minister in September 2012) to reduce Fiscal Deficit leading to a virtuous cycle accelerating GDP, growth & employment.
**Publications**

**Corporate Governance**
Good corporate governance is not just a ‘good thing to have’. It is a must for the functioning of a sound democracy. The disastrous effect of bad governance is accepted widely as the key factor in the recent downfall of the western economies. While a great deal has been done to improve corporate governance in India, much more remains to be done. This paper addresses the unfinished agenda and suggest implementable solutions.

This paper was prepared by team of PIC Founder Members & expert invitees taking into account proceedings from PIC round table chaired by Mr. C. B. Bhawe, Former Chairman, SEBI. It was presented to Dr. Veerappa Moliy, Union Minister on 26th March 2012.

**Electricity for All**
Prayas Energy Group and Pune International Centre (PIC) jointly organized a roundtable on Electricity For All: Challenges and Approaches on 18th February 2012 at Yashada in Pune. Former Union Minister of Power, Shri. Sushil Kumar Shinde was the chief guest while veteran social leader Shri. N. D. Patil was the Chairman. Dr. Pramod Deo, Chairman CERC and Shri. Ashok Lavasa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power were also present. The main agenda was to discuss challenges and approaches to ensure electrification for all households in India. This has led to a discussion paper titled ‘Ensuring Electricity For All’.

The paper argues that for ensuring electricity for all, supply is as important as providing connection. It proposes restructuring of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and making available low cost power to distribution companies to fulfill national commitment of Electricity For All.

**Energy & Environment Dilemma and its Impact on National Security**
Climate changes due to global warming and increasing demand of human society are clearly the two major concerns of the future that can affect global peace and stability. PIC organised a round-table seminar on the subject of ‘Energy & Environment Dilemma and its Impact on National Security’ on 2nd August 2012 at Pune to bring focus on the need to recognise the complexity of this multi-dimensional problem and to evolve a policy advisory paper to highlight the urgent actions required to address the combined threat to national security.

The round-table discussion was chaired by Dr. Arvind Gupta, DG, IDSA, New Delhi and attended by over 80 participants where several experts shared their well-informed views and former President of India, Dr Kalam addressed the final session attended by over 400 people.
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