



PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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# PIC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President  
Mr. Prashant Girbane, Gen. Secretary (Hon.)  
Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director

Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President  
Mr. Ravi Pandit, Treasurer (Hon.)

## Sub-Committees

### Programme Advisory Committee

Chairperson: Prof. Amitav Mallik

Convener: Dr. Sangeeta Kale

Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale  
Ms. Falguni Gokhale  
Ms. Lisa Pingale

Dr. Deepak Shikarpur  
Dr. Latika Padgaonkar  
Ms. Swati Raje

### Membership Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Anu Aga

Convener: Mr. Suresh Pingale

Mr. Amit Paranjape  
Mr. Mukesh Malhotra  
Mr. Prashant Girbane

Mr. Saif Dhorajiwala  
Dr. Padmini Sundaram

### Infrastructure Committee

Chairperson: Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar

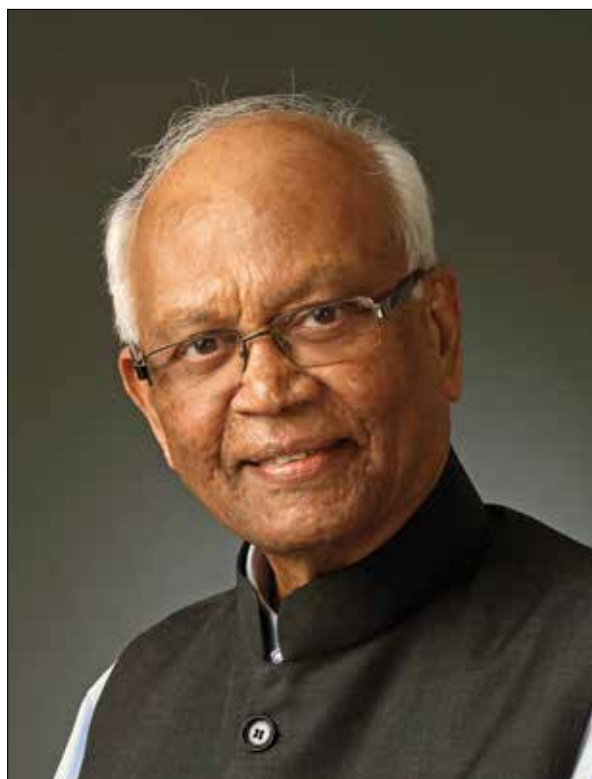
Co-Chair: Mr. Arun Firodia

Convener: Mr. Satish Magar

Mr. Ajit Nimbalkar  
Ms. Falguni Gokhale  
Mr. Hanumantrao Gaikwad  
Mr. Pratap Pawar  
Mr. Prashant Girbane  
Mr. Suresh Pingale

Mr. Anil Supanekar  
Amb. Gautam Bambawale  
Mr. Pramod Chaudhari  
Mr. Prakash Apte  
Mr. Ravi Pandit  
Dr. Vijay Kelkar

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT



A little more than a decade has passed since the inception of Pune International Centre (PIC) in September, 2011. Today, as we stand on the threshold of entering our new campus at Pashan, our beloved think tank is ready to take the next leap. Just as a larva metamorphoses into a beautiful butterfly, takes wings and expands its universe, PIC too is ready to expand its universe as it prepares to move to its new, 7-acre campus in a matter of a few months from now.

A number of corporate houses and individuals have donated generously to our campus construction and research activities and we wish to express our deep gratitude towards them: Mr. Anand Deshpande (Persistent Systems), Bajaj Foundation, Britannia Industries, Forbes Marshall Pvt Ltd, JM Financial, Kirloskar Brothers, KPIT Technologies, Magarpatta Township Development and Construction Co. Ltd., Mr. Ravi Pandit, Reliance Foundation, Tata Trusts and Thermax Foundation. Our efforts on fund raising are continuing and a few more names will be added to this list.

During 2023-24, our focus at the PIC was on developing the new campus and raising funds for the construction activities. This was done without compromising on our core activities, which is public policy research; publication of books and papers; and organising of roundtables, conferences and public events with eminent speakers delivering lectures on current affairs and contemporary issues.

We are happy to inform you that during this year, PIC published 10 Research Papers; organised 8 Roundtables, National and International conferences; published one playbook on 'Enabling Waste to Wealth and Circular Economy' (SI Lab); and published one Issue Brief on 'Pakistan after General Elections: Options for India', authored by Amb. Gautam Bambawale and research interns Manasi Pendharkar and Praneet Shukla.

We held discussions on collaborations with prominent think tanks such as Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF); and held joint events with HQ Southern Command and the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE). PIC's 14th film festival on the theme, 'Cinemas of India: A Festival of Contemporary Indian Films'; the 2nd Gen Bipin Rawat Memorial Seminar; and the release of a Social Innovation Lab Playbook were among the highlights this year.

Our 13th Foundation Day was graced by Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, the first woman Chairperson of India's largest bank, State Bank of India; and at our 11th National Conference on Social Innovation, Dr. Abhay Firodia delivered a scintillating address as the Chief Guest.

The 7th Dileep Padgaonkar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Girish Kuber, Editor-in-Chief, Loksatta, on 'Contemporary News at Crossroads'.

For the first time at the annual Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) conference, we had a curtain-raiser essay writing competition for students on the theme, 'Pole-vaulting to Economic Security for India', at the GIPE, and the top prize winners were felicitated by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff, at the 8th PDNS, held in association with Southern Command. Special thanks are due to Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar, our Trustee and Convener of

PDNS, and our Member Mr. Vikas Deshmukh for this initiative.

In February, the three-day Asia Economic Dialogue on the theme, ‘Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux’, was held for the fifth year in a row in association with the Ministry of External Affairs under the leadership of Amb. Gautam Bambawale. It saw the participation of 43 speakers from 11 nations in a total of 12 sessions.

Prominent personalities who spoke at our events during the year included Gen Manoj Pande (Chief of Army Staff), Amb. V S Seshadri, Mr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Mr. Shastri Ramachandran, Dr. Madhav Gadgil, Mr. Ramachandra Guha, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr. Bimal Patel, Mr. P Sainath, Amb. Navtej Sarna, Mr. Ram Madhav, Mr. Pawan Munjal, and Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, among others.

As of 31st March 2024, our total membership strength stood at: 588, with a total of 297 Life Members, 59 Institutional Members, and 14 Corporate Members. The new Institutional Members include School of Inspired Leadership (SOIL) and Lend a Hand India, and the new Corporate Member is ICICI Foundation.

Before closing, we wish to thank our trustees, members of various committees such as the Membership Committee, Programmes Committee, the PDNS and AED Planning Groups; the Infrastructure Committee and Conveners of our various research verticals, programmes and initiatives for their valuable contribution to PIC. Our research verticals are headed by Conveners Prof. Amitav Mallik (EECC); Lt. Gen. Vinayak Patankar (Pune Dialogue on National Security); Amb Gautam Bambawale (Asia Economic Dialogue); Prof. Abhay Pethe and Prof. Pradeep Apte (Economic Reforms and Urbanisation); and Mr. Dinanath Kholkar (Science, Technology and the National Innovation Ecosystem). The dynamic work at PIC’s Social Innovation Lab is being led by our members and mentors, including Mr. Amit Bhargava, Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde, Mr. Pramod Athalye, Mr. Girendra Kasmalkar, Mr. Sandeep Chavda, Mr. Shekhar Jadhav, Mr. Ram Iyer and Mr. Anil Kulkarni. We also wish to thank Mr. Anil Supaneekar, Ms. Hema Devare and Ms. Swati Raje for anchoring our Marathi programme Pune Samwad and Dr. Sangeeta Kale for the PIC ADDA events.

The Infrastructure Committee members met regularly to take a review of the campus construction and we wish to profusely thank Mr. Arun Firodia (Chair), Mr. Satish Magar (Convener), Mr. Ravi Pandit, Mr. Suresh Pingale, Mr. Ajit Nimbalkar and Mr. Prashant Girbane for their ceaseless efforts.

One of the noteworthy initiatives this year was the PIC Research Fellowship Programme for post-graduate scholars planned and executed by Mr. Prashant Girbane with the participation

of Distinguished Fellows from the PIC who are guiding the young scholars. They include Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Lt Gen Shamsheer Singh Mehta, Ms. Juthika Patankar, Prof. Abhay Pethe, Prof. Gurudas Nulkar, Mr. Ravi Pandit, Amb. Gautam Bambawale and Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale.

The PIC office serves as the nodal point for all our activities and we wish to thank Director Abhay Vaidya and his team for providing valuable support to PIC's multi-pronged activities throughout the year.

As you can see, this has indeed been an eventful and immensely productive year at the PIC.

We look forward to your comments, feedback and suggestions!

Jai Hind!

**Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar**

President

**Dr. Vijay Kelkar**

Vice President

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**A**s noted by our President and Vice President in the preceding message, FY 2023-24 was one of the busiest periods at our think tank, with a number of events, activities and initiatives.

I am happy to report that while back-end activities relating to campus construction and fund raising were in full swing, a number of new initiatives took off at the PIC. This was without compromising on our commitment to produce research papers and conduct national and international conferences, roundtables, book discussions, and conversations with experts. A new activity at the PIC in the last 2-3 years is the publication of books authored by writers from within the PIC, and that work was underway too.

Close interactions and joint events with HQ Southern Command; joint events with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics and Symbiosis International University; and discussions on collaborations with Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) were held during the year. The ORF, in fact, participated with speakers in the 8th Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) and the Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) held in February.

Considerable progress was achieved on the campus construction front, with regular interaction between the PIC Office, Infrastructure Committee, architects Ravindra and Tanaya Kadam and Project Manager Col Rajendra Kenjalkar.

During 2023-24, PIC published 10 Research Papers; organised 8 Roundtables, National and International conferences; published one playbook on 'Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy' (SI Lab); and published one Issue Brief on 'Pakistan after General Elections: Options for India', authored by Amb. Gautam Bambawale and research interns Manasi Pendharkar and Praneet Shukla.

The 10 research papers were on topics such as 'Powering India's Energy Self-Reliance';

‘Support System for Social Innovation in India’; ‘Outstanding Indian Achievers and their Quest for Atmanirbhar Bharat’; and ‘PPP (Private Public Partnership) for Health: Policy Recommendations to Government of Maharashtra’. All the research papers have been uploaded on our website for free download.

A total of 42 public events were held at the PIC, including book launches; lectures; PIC Samwad discussions in Marathi; PIC Adda events; and a number of discussions in multiple sessions during roundtables, conferences and standalone events.

PIC’s 14th film festival on the theme, ‘Cinemas of India: A Festival of Contemporary Indian Films’; and the 2nd Gen Bipin Rawat Memorial Seminar on the theme ‘Regional Security: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities’ with the participation of experts from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were among the highlights this year.

Also noteworthy was the launch of the PIC Research Fellowship Programme for postgraduate scholars in March 2024. It was planned and executed by Mr. Prashant Girbane, with the participation of PIC’s Distinguished Fellows such as Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Lt Gen Shamsher Singh Mehta, Ms. Juthika Patankar, Prof. Abhay Pethe, Prof. Gurudas Nulkar, Mr. Ravi Pandit, Amb. Gautam Bambawale, and Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale. Young scholars from across the country now have an opportunity to work on research papers under the guidance of PIC’s Fellows.

Eminent personalities and scholars who spoke at our events included Gen Manoj Pande (Chief of Army Staff), Amb. V S Seshadri, Mr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Mr. Shastri Ramachandran, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr. Bimal Patel, Mr. P Sainath, Amb. Navtej Sarna, Mr. Ram Madhav, Mr. Pawan Munjal, Dr. Madhav Gadgil, Mr. Ramachandra Guha, and Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, among others.

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The video recordings of all of these events are available on the PIC website ([puneinternationalcentre.org](http://puneinternationalcentre.org)), and the PIC channel on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/PuneInternationalCentre>). You are welcome to visit any event that you may have missed.

Every month, the PIC office releases a newsletter which gives a glimpse of all the programmes and activities during the month. Interestingly, the newsletter also carries a book review/summary of books relevant to our research areas.

I wish to thank my colleagues, Kiran Pardeshi, Tejas Pawar, Geeta Hosmane, Dinesh Duggal, Ganesh Dhebe, Archita Joshi, Samruddhi Isave, Koena Lahiri, Neeraj Thakur, Sanika Potnis, Pradeep Nair, Praneet Shukla, and Madhura Naniwadekar for their enthusiasm and hard work.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions and a promising year ahead!

Thank you,

**Abhay Vaidya**

# PIC CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Top: The PIC Campus masterplan.  
Bottom L to R: Architect's impression of the entrance view and the Plaza view



**Ground breaking ceremony, March 22, 2023:** Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, Mr. Arun Firodia, Prof. Amitav Mallik, Mr. Ravi Pandit, Mr. Satish Magar, Lt. Gen. Shamsheer Singh Mehta, Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, Mr. Prashant Girbane, Dr. Deepti Deobagkar, Ms. Falguni Gokhale, Mr. Satish Gokhale, Mr. Yashwant Bhawe, Ms. Nirmala Pandit, Mr. J Sridhar, Mr. Virendra Shah, Mr. Ashok Jain, Lt Gen Subhash Bhojwani, and architects Mr. Ravindra Kadam and Ms. Tanaya Kadam, along with PIC staff Mr. Ganesh Dhebe, Mr. Tejas Pawar, and Ms. Kiran Pardeshi at the PIC Campus site in Pashan



**Site inspection, Nov. 8, 2022 (Left):** PIC Trustees during the campus site inspection. **Construction puja, May 9, 2023 (Right):** Prashant Girbane, General Secretary, PIC, during the puja at the site

## PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



(Left top and bottom) The under-construction Amphitheatre and Admin and Research building, and Auditorium. (Right top and bottom) Site visit by Tata Trusts team, on November 6, 2023, and PIC Trustees' visit to the PIC Campus, on October 26, 2023

# MANDATE

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Pune has always been a city of learning, scholarship, liberal values, enlightened thinking and action, and prides itself on the presence of thought leaders from all walks of life.

What this great city missed hitherto was a meeting point for all such thinkers and doers, a place where, in an intellectually stimulating and peaceful environment, enlightened discussions and debates could be held about the future of this city, this great nation and indeed the world. Other cities have such meeting places. In New Delhi, for example, the India International Centre (IIC) provides such an ambience. Over almost half a century, it has played a unique cultural and intellectual role in the life of New Delhi's citizens. On similar lines, Goa hosts the International Centre, Goa (ICG) and Bengaluru hosts the Bangalore International Centre.

Individuals with a distinguished record of public service in India and abroad conceived the idea of an international centre in Pune. The idea of setting up the Pune International Centre (PIC) received prompt and enthusiastic support.

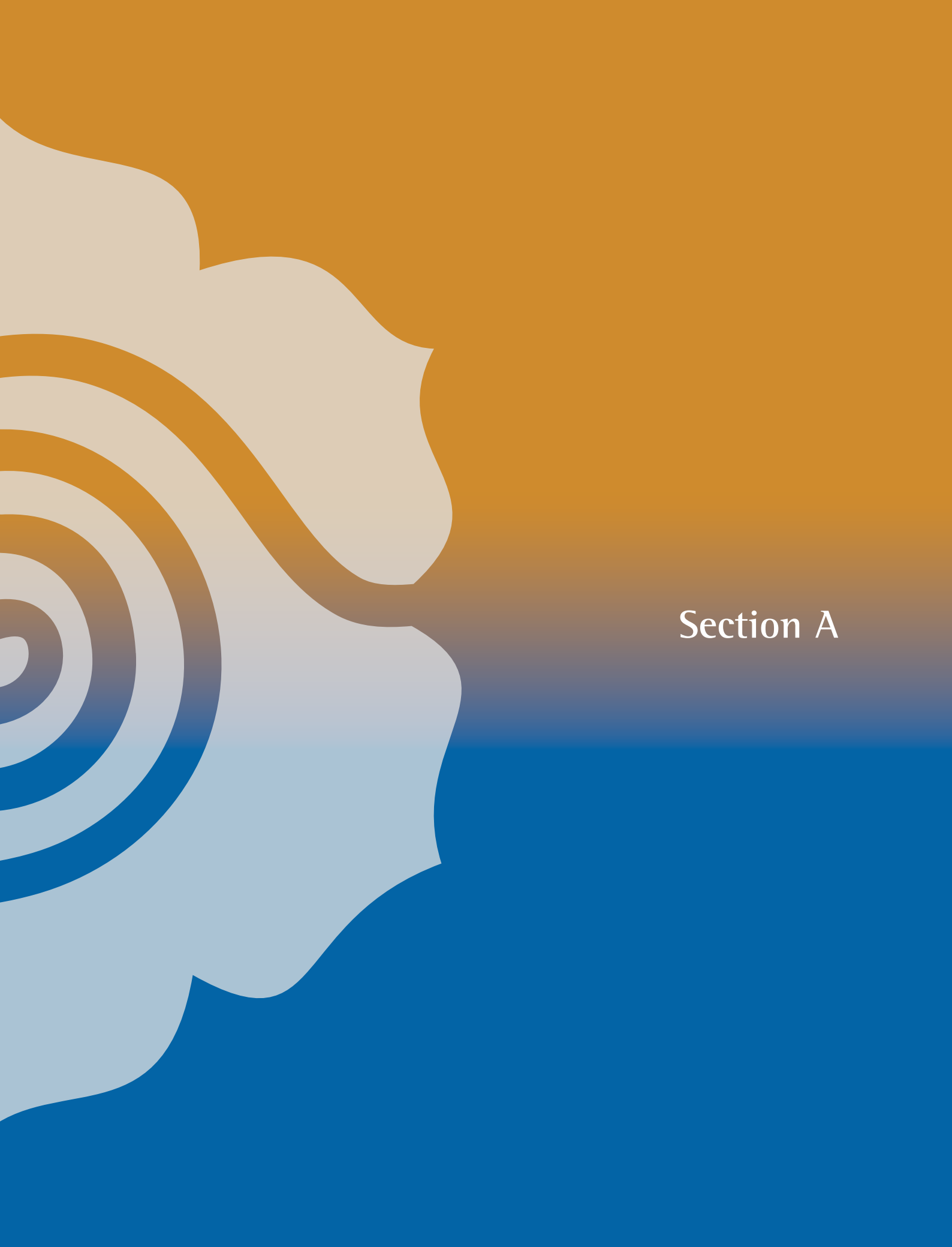
Aware of the city's role during the freedom struggle, its pioneering contribution to social reforms and liberal politics, its reputation as a crucible of educational, scientific, literary and artistic endeavours, and its emergence as a centre of high-end entrepreneurial activity, the founders were determined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

PIC is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES



- To create a platform for open discussion and for stimulating debates by mobilising the intellectual resources with which the city of Pune is so richly endowed.
- To promote activities and programmes with strong emphasis on involvement of youth so as to help build future leadership and to inspire a new generation to create positive social change based on the eternal human values enshrined in the UN Charter and the Indian Constitution.
- To undertake, organise and facilitate study courses conferences, seminars lectures in matters relating to the 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 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 the study of world cultures and socio-economic conditions.
- To offer prizes and to grant scholarships in furtherance of the objectives of the Centre.
- To provide a forum for the promotion of all arts including visual, performing and design arts, and also literature.
- To do or get done all such other lawful things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above aims and objectives.



Section A

# MEMBERSHIP

## Trustees – 23

Mr. Ajit Nimbalkar  
Dr. Ajit Ranade  
Prof. Amitav Mallik  
Mr. Anil Supanekar  
Mr. Arun Firodia  
Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale (Retd)  
Amb. Gautam Bambawale (Retd)  
Dr. Ganesh Natarajan  
Mr. Mukesh Malhotra  
Dr. Narendra Jadhav

Mr. Prashant Girbane  
Mr. Pratap G Pawar  
Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar  
Mr. Ravi Pandit  
Mr. Satish Magar  
Mr. Suresh Pingale  
Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar  
Mr. Vijay Gokhale  
Dr. Vijay Kelkar  
Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar (Retd)

Additional Chief Secretary (Planning), Maharashtra  
Divisional Commissioner, Pune  
Director General, YASHADA, Pune

## Honorary Members – 19

Dr. Abhay Bang  
Dr. Ashok Ganguly  
Mr. Rahul Dravid  
Mr. Sachin Tendulkar  
Ms. Sai Paranjpye  
Ms. Shabana Azmi  
Ms. Suman Kirloskar  
Mr. Sunil Gavaskar  
Ms. Vijaya Mehta  
Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya

Mr. Nandan Nilekani  
Prof. Avinash Dixit  
Mr. Chandu Borde  
Prof. CNR Rao  
Dr. Fareed Zakaria  
Mr. Javed Akhtar  
Dr. Jayant Naralikar  
Prof. Madhav Gadgil  
Prof. M M Sharma

## Institutional Members - 59

Alliance Française de Pune, Maharashtra  
Azim Premji Foundation, Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune  
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune  
College of Engineering, Pune (COEP)  
DES, Institute of Management Development and Research, Pune  
Equal Opportunity Foundation, Pune  
Fergusson College, Pune  
FLAME University, Pune  
Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune  
India Development Foundation (IDF), Gurgaon  
India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi  
Indian Institute for Human Settlement (IIHS), Bengaluru  
Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), Gujarat  
Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, West Bengal  
Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, Punjab  
Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Pune  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai, Chhattisgarh  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Goa  
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, Uttarakhand  
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), New Delhi  
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata  
Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai  
Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune  
Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bangalore  
K E M Hospital and Research Centre, Pune  
Lend a Hand India, Pune  
MAEER's MIT School of Government (MIT-SOG), Pune  
Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), Pune  
National Academy of Defence Financial Management (NADFM), Pune  
National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune  
National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune  
National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune  
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Delhi

National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), Gandhinagar  
National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune  
National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi  
National Insurance Academy (NIA), Pune  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi  
Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Ahmednagar, Maharashtra  
Prayas Energy Group (PEG), Pune  
Progressive Education Society, Pune  
Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune  
School of Inspired Leadership (SOIL), Gurgaon  
Science and Technology Park (STEP), Pune  
Shree Chanakya Education Society (Indira Group of Institutions), Pune  
Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University, Mumbai  
Sir Parshurambhau College (SP College), Pune  
Society of Civil Servants, Pune  
Sri Balaji Society, Pune  
Symbiosis International University (SIU), Pune  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai  
The Agri Horticultural Society of Western India (Empress Garden), Pune  
Venture Center, Pune  
Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), Pune  
Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune

## Corporate Members – 14

BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd, New Delhi  
Cairn Energy India Pvt Ltd, Haryana  
Deccan Mechanical and Chemical Industries Pvt Ltd (DEMECH), Pune  
Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Mumbai  
Huawei Telecommunications (India) Co. Pvt Ltd, Haryana  
ICICI Foundation  
JSW Steel Ltd, Mumbai  
Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Mumbai  
National Stock Exchange of India, Mumbai  
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Mumbai  
Petronet LNG Ltd  
Reliance Industries Ltd, Mumbai  
Tata Chemicals Ltd, Mumbai  
Tata Consultancy Services, Mumbai



## Section B



## PROGRAMMES

A total of 42 programmes including webinars, conversations, book releases, roundtables and national and international conferences were held. All the events, except one, were offline and saw excellent participation from India and abroad.

The following pages contain a review of the events held from April 2023 to March 2024.

## Events in April 2023

*There were two main events in April 2023—a lecture by eminent architect Dr. Bimal Patel on ‘Managing Urban Redevelopment’, and the launch of the book ‘Exprovement: Exponential Improvement through Converging Parallels’, by Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar and Mr. Hersh Haladker. Also, discussions on PIC’s book ‘India’s Pathways to Success’ were held at multiple locations.*

### ‘Managing Urban Redevelopment,’ lecture by Dr. Bimal Patel

1 April



Dr. Bimal Patel (left) and Prof. Abhay Pethe (right) at the lecture

On 1st April, eminent architect, urbanist and academic Dr. Bimal Patel delivered a lecture on ‘Managing Urban Redevelopment,’ at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE). Prof. Abhay Pethe, Senior Fellow, Pune International Centre (PIC), and Special Adviser to the Vice Chancellor, GIPE, was the chair at the session, organised jointly by PIC and GIPE.

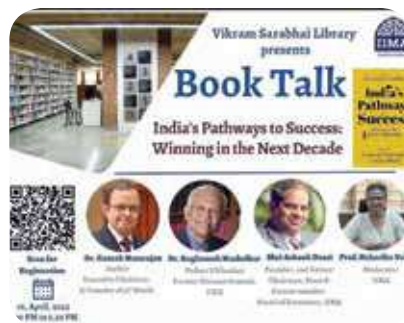
Through a powerful presentation on the subject, Dr. Patel, Padma Shri, explained how lack of streets and prevalence of narrow streets was one of the main reasons for a host of serious urban problems in Indian cities, including acute traffic congestion. He said what Indian cities need is a grid-like street layout that is seen in New York and other well-planned cities.

Dr. Patel is renowned for his work on major projects such as the Parliament House and Central Vista Transformation; restoration and expansion of Gandhi Ashram, Ahmedabad; Vishwanath Dham, Sri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, Varanasi; and Redevelopment of Mumbai Eastern Waterfront. Acknowledging that Indian cities were badly planned, he said that change through redevelopment could be achieved incrementally over the years through sensible planning, as was done in the best cities of the world. He pointed out that even at the zenith of the British colonial power during the late 19th and early 20th century, London was a terrible city to live in.

The event witnessed a lively question-answer session. PIC Director Mr. Abhay Vaidya welcomed the guests and delivered the vote of thanks.

## PIC's *India's Pathways to Success* book discussions held at multiple locations

3 & 20 April



Book discussion at Chennai (left) and the banner of the event at IIM-A

Thanks to the initiative by Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Dr. Ejaz Ghani and others, three book discussions were held at various locations this month. These included a book session on April 3rd at a US-India firm in Chennai, followed by a panel discussion at the Madras Management Association, a discussion at the IIM, Ahmedabad, and a discussion in Washington DC on April 20th, organised by TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs).

Speakers in these discussions included Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar; Dr. Ganesh Natarajan;

Dr. Ejaz Ghani; Dr. Uma Ganesh; Shri Ashank Desai, Founder and former Chairman, Mastek; and Prof. Neharika Vohra, moderator, IIM-A.

## Book Launch – *Exprovement: Exponential Improvement through Converging Parallels*

24 April



*Exprovement: Exponential Improvement through Converging Parallels*, the latest book by Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar (2nd from left) and Mr. Hersh Haladker (3rd from left), was launched by Dr. Ajit Ranade (extreme right), Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), on 24th April 2023, at Kale Hall (GIPE). On extreme left is Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC.

On 24th April, PIC in association with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) launched the book *Exprovement: Exponential Improvement through Converging Parallels*, co-authored by Mr. Hersh Haladker and Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, FRS, former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and President, PIC. The event was held at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics and chaired by GIPE Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Ranade.

*Exprovement* focuses on achieving exponential results through creative and innovative thinking. In their book, Mr Haladker and Dr. Mashelkar have discussed many insightful examples of 'Exprovement' and strategies to develop the Exprovement Mindset.

Dr. Mashelkar spoke about his inspiration to become a scientist and how he is a great

believer in exponential growth. “Be exponential, don’t be incremental,” he said.

Mr. Hersh Haladker spoke about the Delta, the gap between What is and What could be, around which the book revolves. He said, “Design thinking is incremental, innovation is breakthrough.”

Dr. Ranade initiated an engaging conversation with the authors and spoke about innovation and its importance. “Innovation is all about pushing boundaries, and it is the source of economic growth,” he said. He gave examples of innovations and anecdotes mentioned in the book which opened new markets in the economy. PIC Director Mr. Abhay Vaidya welcomed the audience and the speakers and also concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

## Events in June 2023

*Three main events were held in June 2023. It included a programme on World Environment Day, book conversation with veteran journalist P Sainath on his book *The Last Heroes: Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom*, and a PIC ADDA talk by Prof. Amitav Mallik on ‘Science and Spirituality’. Also, Prof. Ajay Shah, Senior Fellow, PIC was invited by Headquarters Southern Command to deliver a lecture on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.*

## World Environment Day programme: ‘Opportunities in Green Careers’

5 June



Mr. Nitant Mate (left) and Mr. Pradeep Bhargava speaking at the event.

On 5th June, World Environment Day, PIC's research vertical EECC (Energy, Environment and Climate Change) held an event on the theme 'Opportunities in Green Careers', at the Sumant Moolgaokar Auditorium, ICC Trade Tower.

Event convener Prof. Amitav Mallik stressed on the importance of solutions and the role of youth in climate change. Ms. Shalvi Pawar, Project Associate, EECC, gave a brief about the initiatives taken up by EECC.

Keynote speaker Mr. Nitant Mate, MD & Partner, SeeGreen Solutions, spoke on a range of topics and emphasised the need for businesses to focus on meeting human needs (energy, health, food, waste, and water) and for countries to shift from a GDP-focussed "growth" mindset to a "development" mindset that focusses on standard of living.

There was a panel discussion on green careers and how to pursue them. Panellists shared their work experiences and talked about opportunities. Ms. Megha Phadkay, Research Assistant, EECC, moderated the discussion. The panellists were Siddharth Bhagwat, Project Leader, Pune Decarbonization Project, EECC; Hamsa Iyer, General Manager, Pro-Earth Ecosystems; Pournima Agarkar, Sustainability Facilitator, Laya Resource Centre and Samuchit Enviro-Tech; and Aashay Abhyankar, Managing Partner, Abhyankar's IAS.

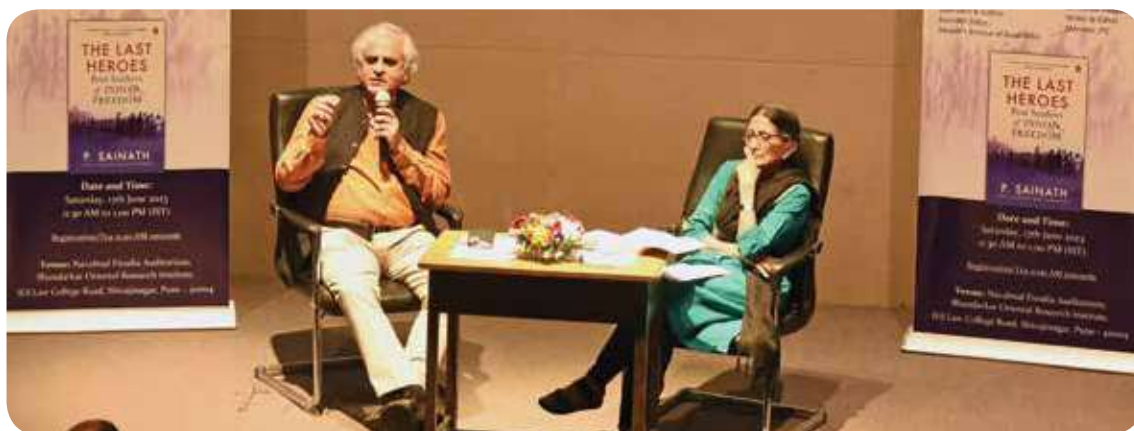
Chief Guest Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, Member, PIC, and Chairman, GreenCo Council, CII, shared his insights on the dichotomy observed in climate conversations – the perceived notion of having to choose between development and environment and profits and sustainability.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Amitav Mallik highlighted that "Environment and Economy are part of the same coin" and that there are vast opportunities available in the sustainability sector.

## Book Conversation – *The Last Heroes: Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom*

17 June

On 17th June 2023, Pune International Centre (PIC) organised a discussion with journalist and historian P Sainath on his book *The Last Heroes: Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom*, at Navalmal Firodia Auditorium, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute. In conversation with him was Dr. Latika Padgaonkar, writer and editor, and member, PIC.



P Sainath (Left) and Dr. Latika Padgaonkar during the book discussion

After Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, delivered the welcome note, Mr. Sainath spoke about his experience working on the book, which narrates the stories of ordinary people who participated in India's freedom struggle.

He began with a video clip of 84-year-old Mallu Swarajyam swinging a slingshot to demonstrate how she and her comrades had used it as a weapon to fight against the Nizam's militia in the 1940s.

Narrating his interactions with the ageing freedom fighters, he said some of them were still actively fighting for social justice. The book, he said, is about “people who sought nothing, gave everything”.

However, he noted that the way we defined freedom fighters “made things hard” for them.

When Dr. Padgaonkar drew attention to one of the interviewees' (Captain Bhau's) quote: “We fought for two things – for freedom and independence. We attained independence”, Sainath said every one of the living freedom fighters makes this distinction between independence and freedom and that freedom according to them was a “larger project”.

During the conversation, Sainath shared anecdotes of his meeting with the freedom fighters, and also his views about colonialism, its impact, and his grandfather's experiences of the freedom struggle.

The discussion was followed by a lively Q&A session.

## PIC Adda – Science and Spirituality

24 June



Prof. Amitav Mallik and Dr. Sangeeta Kale during the conversation

The PIC Adda of 24 June 2023 was on ‘Science and Spirituality’. The talk by Prof. Amitav Mallik was moderated by Dr. Sangeeta Kale.

Prof. Mallik started by pointing out that there were similarities between Physics and Vedanta, or adhyaatma, and that it was a grey zone where everything cannot be proved.

“What Advaita Vedanta says and what Quantum Theory says are not very different,” he noted.

He said Science started looking outward, objective; the Vedanta, or spirituality, started looking from inward, and both were looking at the same thing – how the human being can be more at ease, more at peace, and more joyful. Referring to Swami Vivekananda’s talk in Chicago in 1893, he said it got him many followers, who came to know about the treasure trove of inner wealth that India had.

Prof. Mallik pointed out that whether it is Science or Vedanta, the questions are: Who am I – whether it is the body, mind, experience, or memories, all of which are external. He dwelt on the question of who remembers the experience and the memories – the body, mind, or intellect? He said the word *satchitananda* – where *sat* is truth, *chit* is consciousness and

*ananda* is joy – encompasses all that has been researched. He also noted that not many people are interested in the topic as they are overtaken by day-to-day issues.

The West and India, he observed, have different psychological reasons for adopting yoga and spirituality; the West is moving towards yoga and meditation as a solution to their problems, while Indians do yoga and meditation as an enquiry, as a search for truth, or *satya*. He said that yoga as a personal choice has increased.

He dwelt on the complex aspects of entangled particles and the speed of light in Physics and how they are connected with Vedanta. External experiences, or the world, he said, are just an illusion, or *jagat mithya*, and deviates human beings from their true inner selves, and that the introspection of our inner self is the need of the hour.

Prof. Mallik observed that for both Vedanta and Science, human beings are the central point. He concluded with the hope that the values of inner discipline and compassion would return to society.

The talk was followed by a thought-provoking interaction with the audience.

## Lecture on Lessons of the Ukraine War

24 June



Prof. Ajay Shah delivering the lecture.

Prof. Ajay Shah, Senior Fellow, PIC was invited by Headquarters Southern Command to deliver a lecture on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, on 24 June 2023. GOC-in-C, Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, and other senior officers stationed in Pune were in attendance.

Prof. Shah vividly introduced the dynamic behind the conflict and elaborated on the catastrophic Russian blunder. As a result, President Vladimir Putin's military and intelligence infrastructure paid a heavy price for their grossly inaccurate assessment of Ukrainian resistance, in the form of thousands of Russian casualties.

The operation was condemned from the get-go due to noncompliance with standard military tactics and procedures, and an inherent lack of trained personnel in the present-day Russian barracks. Prof. Shah pointed to the unshakeable Ukrainian spirit in putting up a tough fight against an otherwise superior adversary.

Furthermore, the synchronisation of NATO technology and tactics with partisan support within Ukraine left the Russians tactically outmatched, with coordinated ambushes of Russian convoys witnessing Western Infantry mobile rocket launchers and small arms. The very fact that the conflict, which according to Russian estimates should have been a quick decisive victory but turned into a long-drawn slugfest, exemplifies a clear case of David versus Goliath, with Goliath Russia facing humiliating setbacks by the day.

Thanks to the support of Western technology and their intelligence behemoth, the Ukrainians have been able to effectively outfox their enemy with innovative, on-the-fly utilisation of systems like drones, precision-guided munitions and resilient cyber warfare capabilities.

Lt Gen Singh expressed his gratitude to PIC and Prof. Shah for presenting a holistic worldview of the conflict.

## Events in July 2023

*July witnessed two main events at PIC. It included a lecture on Indo-US relations by Amb. Navtej Sarna; and launch of 'India's Million Missions: Non-Profit Sector Reports', in association with Dasra. Also, PIC's books were presented to Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Professor Emeritus, Stockholm University, during his lecture at GIPE.*

## PIC Lecture on ‘Indo-US Relations: A New Era of Partnership’

11 July



PIC hosted a lecture on ‘Indo-US Relations: A New Era of Partnership’, by Amb. Navtej Sarna, former Indian Ambassador to the US, at YASHADA on July 11. PIC’s trustee Mr. Vijay Gokhale, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India, was the chair.

In a lively conversational session with Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Amb. Sarna gave an engaging account of his two terms as a diplomat in the US, the evolution of Indo-US relations, and life as a diplomat.

He said that during his first term (1998–2002) “Washington was anti-India”. The reawakening for India, he observed, started with India’s nuclear tests as it made people curious about the country, led to greater US engagement with India, and eventually the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2005.

He narrated how over the years, India came out of nuclear apartheid, India’s economy grew, and there was a “dehyphenation with Pakistan”. An important aspect that came into play, he noted, was the security dimension. He said that until the 2005 nuclear deal, the Americans, wary of the Russians, didn’t want to share what India wanted, but by 2016 India was a “major

defence partner” of the US. He also highlighted India’s IT prowess and how Indian techies were seen as “tech coolies” before Y2K but were the ones who solved the Y2K problem.

Terming the recent US visit of the Indian Prime Minister as “extremely successful and wide ranging” and the technology transfer a “breakthrough”, Amb. Sarna said it indicated that the “defining element” in future Indo-US partnership would be technology.

He observed that while the US is trying to decouple itself from China in technology reliance, the US’ interest in technology transfer to India is to wean India from Russia. On whether Indo-US partnership would sustain, he said it would if the US-China competition stays, and also regardless of who comes to power in the US.

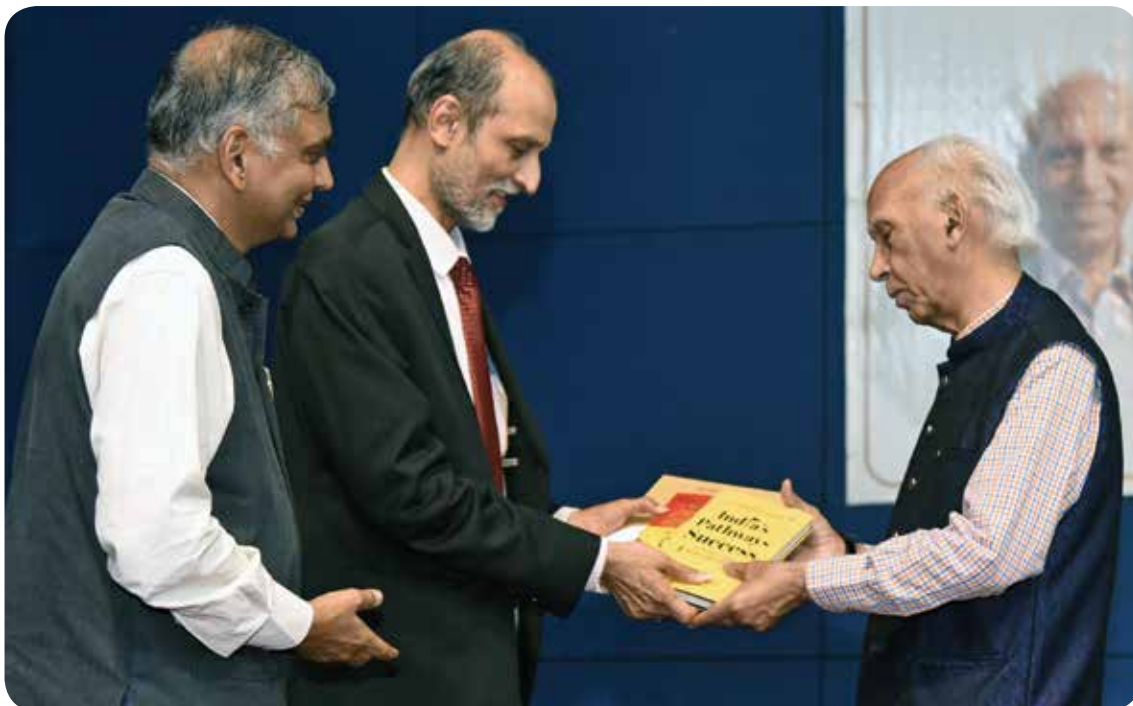
On the chances of India becoming a member of the UN Security Council, Amb. Sarna said while he doesn’t see it happening, India can still be effective diplomatically as it is part of groupings like BRICS and G20.

He gave an anecdotal inside view of the pressures faced by diplomats before they faced the media and also spoke about his books, *Indians at Herod’s Gate* and the recent *Crimson Spring*.

Fielding audience questions, he elaborated on issues like non-alignment, India’s regional balancer role, the economic aspect in Indo-US partnership, trade barriers, India’s “abysmal” R&D, energy and mineral security, China, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

## PIC books presented to Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed

20 July



L to R: Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, and Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice-Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, presented PIC's publications to Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stockholm University, during his lecture at GIPE on July 20 on the topic, 'India-Pakistan Peace in Our Lifetime?'

## Launch of 'India's Million Missions: Non-Profit Sector Reports'

28 July



L to R: Mr. Raj Gilda, Mr. Shekhar Singh, Ms. Pratima Joshi, Ms. Lakshmi Narayanan and Mr. Madhukar Banuri during the panel discussion at the event

PIC, in association with Dasra, organised the Pune launch event of 'India's Million Missions: Non-Profit Sector Reports', at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute on 28th July.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Shekhar Singh, Municipal Commissioner of Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), stressed upon the need for collaboration between civil society organisations (CSOs) and government agencies and convergence within CSOs.

Later, Ms. Anu Agha and Ms. Rati Forbes unveiled the Report – a brilliant compilation of data on CSOs in India and which holds great value as India is said to be the NGO capital of the world with more than 30 lakh non-profit organisations.

Ms. Pushpa Aman Singh, Founder and CEO, GuideStar India, shared her insights from Coalition SCO@75 pan India non-profit sector survey, and highlighted the doing good index, India's standing in it, and how it can be improved.

Sharing her experiences over the years, Ms. Deepa Pawar, Founder Anubhuti Foundation, highlighted the bitter truth of the elite and hierarchical structure that exists in the social sector. She also talked about the importance of involving community members in the data collection process.

A panel discussion touched upon topics such as trust deficit and pro poor public private partnership. The panellists were Mr. Madhukar Banuri, Founder and CEO, Leadership for Equity; Ms. Lakshmi Narayanan, Co-Founder, Kashtakari Panchayat; Ms. Pratima Joshi, Founder and Executive Director, Shelter Associates; Raj Gilda, Co-founder, Lend A Hand India; and Mr. Shekhar Singh, Municipal Commissioner, PCMC.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, urged the audience to think proactively about the social sector and spoke about the importance of updating data, and how CSOs fill in the gaps where the government fails to deliver.

## Events in August 2023

*Four main programmes were held in August. These included the launch of Sunil Kant Munjal's book *The Making of Hero in Marathi*; followed by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia's lecture; the release of Savitribai Phule's biography; and the Pune Samwad webinar on 'Russia-Ukraine War'. In addition, there was the inauguration of PIC EECC's Carbon Neutrality Facilitation Cell, and the visit to PIC by ORF President Dr. Samir Saran to discuss collaborations.*

## Book Launch of *सुनील कान्त मुंजल: चार बंधूंचा एक व्होल्तरी प्रेरणादायी प्रवास* and Panel Discussion on 'Entrepreneurship Across Eras'

### 5 August

Pune International Centre (PIC) on August 5 organised the launch of *सुनील कान्त मुंजल: चार बंधूंचा एक व्होल्तरी प्रेरणादायी प्रवास*, the Marathi translation of the national bestseller, *The Making of Hero: Four Brothers, Two Wheels and a Revolution that Shaped India*, authored by Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman, Hero Enterprise. The event was held at YASHADA Auditorium, Pune.



Seated L to R: Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Mr. Parikshit Luthra, Dr. Abhay Firodia, and Ms. Namita Thapar; (inset) Dr. Sangeeta Kale

Dr. Sangeeta Kale, member of PIC's Programmes Advisory Committee, welcomed the gathering and made the opening remarks. The Marathi edition was ceremoniously unveiled by Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and MD, Bajaj Finserv Ltd, Dr. Abhay Firodia, Chairman, Force Motors Ltd, and Ms. Namita Thapar, Executive Director, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Mr. Munjal thanked the publisher and the translator Ms. Meena Shete-Sambhu for their efforts and the distinguished guests then participated in a panel discussion on 'Entrepreneurship Across Eras: What Changed? What Hasn't?', moderated by Mr. Parikshit Luthra, Deputy Editor and Bureau Chief, CNBC TV 18.

During the discussion, Mr. Munjal spoke about the enduring principles of entrepreneurship that Hero's iconic founder Dr. Brijmohan Lall Munjal had embraced along with his brothers. He said the most valuable asset was people and that it was a resource that grows with time and experience, while other assets like buildings and technologies invariably depreciate. He highlighted the significance of cultivating and preserving relationships, advocating fairness in all dealings, humility, and collective effort in the creative process, and highlighted terms like "parivar (family)" to stress the collaborative nature of success.

Dr. Firodia spoke on the evolution of the automotive industry in the country and the difference between the auto industry of the 1950s and 1980s. He highlighted the hurdles faced by entrepreneurs during those times, such as the challenges of scaling, government regulations, and the restrictive license regime.

Ms. Thapar shared insights on fortifying family business structures and articulated the significance of effective succession planning, delineating roles and responsibilities within the family enterprise, and the equilibrium between professional and familial duties. She highlighted the deficiencies in these aspects in contemporary family businesses.

Mr. Bajaj threw light on the current landscape of capital accessibility and said today's entrepreneurs benefit not only from their innate zeal and risk-taking aptitude but also from unprecedented access to global and alternative forms of capital, such as private equity, venture capital groups, and entrepreneurial networks. These resources, he noted, empower entrepreneurs to cultivate exceptional enterprises. The event saw a lively Q&A session.

## Lecture on 'Economic Diplomacy in a Changing World Order', by Montek Singh Ahluwalia

18 August



Dr. Ajit Ranade (left) and Amb. Gautam Bambawale (right) while presenting PIC's books to Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia (centre); (right photo) Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia speaking at the event

Pune International Centre, in association with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), organised a special lecture by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, on the topic 'Economic Diplomacy in a Changing World Order', at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics.

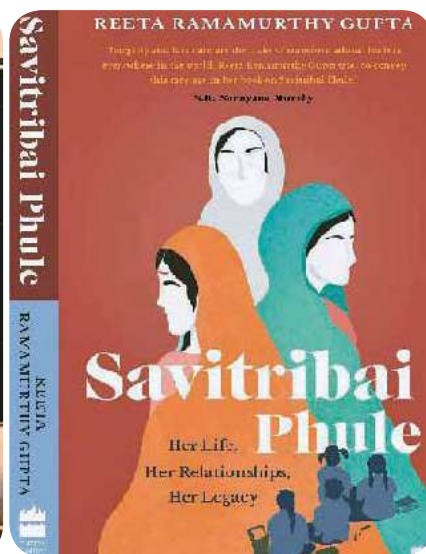
After the opening remarks by Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, GIPE, Dr. Ahluwalia in his lecture spoke about India's economic growth since Independence and also on how the classifications made by international organisations affect economic diplomacy. He highlighted the reasons behind countries being in the middle-income trap; how geopolitical changes affect

economic growth; how countries are now turning towards protectionism and reorienting their supply chain policy which, he said, mostly is 'China +1'. He also highlighted the importance of trade and free trade agreements and said it was the most important area of economic diplomacy.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session.

## Release of biography, *Savitribai Phule: Her Life, Her Relationships, Her Legacy*

19 August



L to R: Mr. Suresh Pingale, Ms. Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta, and Mr. Abhay Vaidya during the conversation

The biography, *Savitribai Phule: Her Life, Her Relationships, Her Legacy*, authored by Ms. Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta, was ceremoniously released by Pune International Centre (PIC), along with Equal Opportunity Foundation, at Sumant Moolgaokar Hall, Pune, on August 19, 2023. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President, PIC, and Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice-President, PIC, were present at the book release.

After Mr. Suresh Pingale, programme Chair, Trustee, PIC, and president, Equal Opportunity Foundation, made his opening remarks, Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, engaged in an enlightening conversation with the author.

On her inspiration to write the book, Ms. Reeta noted that biographies of women were the “missing link in the history of documentation”, that there were fewer biographies of women and even fewer biographies of women by women, and that she chose to write about the women because of whom she “can write”.

Speaking on the role of Savitribai Phule’s associates, Fatima Shaikh and Sagunabai Kshirsagar in the opening of 18 schools for the girl child in Pune, the author shared interesting and little-known details of Savitribai’s life and how “a confluence of things” brought about the revolution in education.

Ms. Reeta answered audience questions on Mukta Salve, a dalit girl and student of Savitri and Fatima; the Bal Hatya Pratibandhak Griha started by the Phules to fight infanticide; about the choice of colours on the book’s cover; the book’s appeal to youngsters; what Savitribai would have done in today’s scenario; gender equality; and the interesting reactions to her book.

## Pune Samwad: Marathi Webinar on ‘Russia Ukraine War: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow’

21 August

An insightful Pune Samwad webinar in Marathi on ‘रुस-युक्रेन युद्ध: कल, आज आणि कल’ (Russia-Ukraine War: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow)’ was held on August 21, 2023.

The discussion was led by Amb. Sudhir Devare, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India’s first Ambassador to Ukraine, and trustee, PIC; with Lt Gen. Vinayak Patankar, former GoC, 15 Corps, Kashmir, and trustee, PIC in the Chair and Mr. Amit Paranjape, co-Founder, ReliScore, PuneTech, and member, PIC, as a discussant/moderator at the event. Deep insights into the war, its nature, narratives, and consequences for the world and India were shared at the event.

Amb. Devare said that a year and a half into the war, repercussions were being felt in the warring countries with lives lost, people displaced, cities destroyed, and around the world as supply chains of commodities have been disrupted, impacting the global economy, food and energy security, globalisation and interconnectedness, with no sign of the situation improving.



Clockwise from top left: Amb. Mr. Sudhir Devare, Mr. Amit Paranjape, and Lt Gen. Vinayak Patankar

Noting that while there are narratives blaming Russia on the one hand and America and Europe on the other, he said the war is between Russia and the US and an opportunity for the US to test its weapons without sending a single soldier into the conflict. He said new technologies are being tested in the war.

The war complicated matters for India's G20 presidency, he noted, as India, China and the US were not on the same page over Russia, adding that a negotiated end to the war was "difficult". He pointed out that India reiterated its non-aligned stand by remaining "neutral" and overcame restrictions on oil from the Gulf countries by importing Russian oil.

China, he said, is the "elephant in the room" and has benefited from the war as there is more cooperation with Russia, and China is also getting support and sympathy in the global south.

He said the greatest loss from the war is to Europe, also pointing out that NATO, which was losing importance, is now gaining importance.

On how the war games will play out, Lt Gen. Patankar highlighted that Russia had made progress in cyber war against Ukraine but as the war progressed, Russia appeared to have remained where it was during the Cold War as the progress they made was not reflected on ground. He said the war saw the return of the tank, indicating that its relevance in warfare is not over.

## Inauguration of Carbon Neutrality Facilitation Cell

30 August



PIC's Team EECC members with Ms. Poonam Mehta, Mr. Saurabh Rao and urban local government officials at the inauguration

PIC's Energy, Environment and Climate Change (EECC) research vertical, in collaboration with the Divisional Commissioner Office, Pune, has created the Carbon Neutrality Facilitation Cell under the guidance of Prof. Amitav Mallik, Head, EECC, and Trustee, PIC.

A first-of-its-kind government cell in India to perform carbon accounting and monitoring for making the regions carbon neutral, it was inaugurated on August 30, 2023 by Mr. Saurabh Rao, Divisional Commissioner, Pune, and Ms. Poonam Mehta, Joint Commissioner, Pune.

From Team EECC, Shalvi Pawar, Vaishali Patkar and Siddharth Bhagwat, who contributed to the cell's framework, were also present.

## ORF President visits PIC

31 August



Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, Dr. Samir Saran, and Dr. Vijay Kelkar during the discussion

On August 31, 2023, Dr. Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), visited Pune International Centre (PIC) for an interaction with the members, conveners of research verticals, and the board of trustees. In the words of PIC President Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, the interaction was “electrifying” and a number of possibilities for collaboration between the two think tanks were discussed. Mr. Saran was accompanied by Dr. Jaibal Naduvath, ORF’s Vice President and Senior Fellow.

## Events in September 2023

*September had five events. They included the launch of ecologist Dr. Madhav Gadgil’s book; lecture by Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri; PIC ADDA lecture on biomobility by Dr. Ravindra Utgikar; PIC’s 13th Foundation Day ceremony; and a fireside chat with Mr. Prakash Magdum.*

## Launch of ecologist Dr. Madhav Gadgil's book *A Walk Up The Hill* and its 8 Indian language translations

1 September



Mr. Ramachandra Guha (left) in conversation with Dr. Madhav Gadgil

Renowned ecologist Dr. Madhav Gadgil's book *A Walk Up The Hill: Living With People and Nature* was launched along with its eight Indian language translations, at Kale Hall, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), on September 1, 2022.

Organised by Pune International Centre (PIC), along with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), the well-attended event featured a freewheeling conversation between noted historian Dr. Ramachandra Guha and Dr. Madhav Gadgil. The eminent ecologist spoke about his inspiration, his life in his native Pune, his years as faculty at IISc Bangalore, and his work in field ecology across India and in the Western Ghats in particular.

Dr. Gadgil traced his interest in Nature to his early days as his father was also interested in nature and sympathised with farmers and the people of India. He said the hills fascinated him and he enjoyed trekking in and around Pune, visiting the forts of Maharashtra's icon Shivaji Maharaj, and watching and identifying birds from noted ornithologist Salim Ali's book, which, he said, made him decide that "this is what I should do".

With witty anecdotes, he spoke about his life and career – from his early years with parents in Pune, pursuing graduation in Biology at Pune's Fergusson College, meeting and marrying college mate and later a meteorologist, Sulochana, to their selection as faculty at IISc Bangalore

by its then director and renowned scientist Satish Dhawan, whom Gadgil described as a “fearless” person “committed to the social cause” and who recognised and rewarded merit.

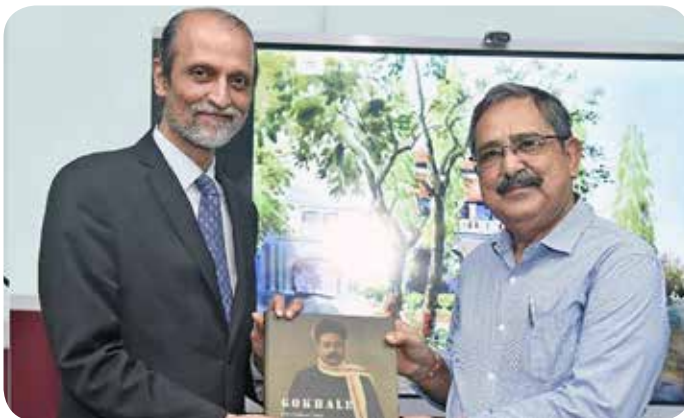
Dr. Guha highlighted Dr. Gadgil’s vast knowledge of the Western Ghats and said it was an “extraordinary tribute” that his book has been translated into almost every language spoken in the Western Ghats.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gurudas Nulkar, Trustee, Ecological Society, Pune, and Member, PIC, spoke about the contributions of Dr. Gadgil to India’s environment policy and conservation, and of Dr. Gadgil’s father, who was the founder director of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, GIPE, and Trustee, PIC, highlighted Dr. Gadgil’s field work across the country and his following the “Maharashtrian tradition of pursuit of knowledge for development and social welfare”. Dr. Gadgil’s wife, Sulochana Gadgil, and their children Siddharth and Gauri were also present.

## Lecture on ‘India in Search of Glory’, by Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri

14 September



Left: Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri delivering the lecture; (Right) Ajit Ranade presenting GIPE’s reprint of the book on Gopal Krishna Gokhale to Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri.

Pune International Centre in association with the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics on September 14 organised a lecture on the topic 'India in Search of Glory', by Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and former Adviser to the Government of India.

After reminiscing his visit to Gokhale Institute forty years ago, Dr. Lahiri, who is the author of *India in Search Of Glory: Political Calculus and Economy*, spoke on a range of issues including politics, economics and Indian democracy in particular.

Reposing faith in Indian democracy to lead India to glory, he highlighted how post-colonial India was an exception when many east Asian countries including Japan did not have a full-fledged democracy as while they had the policy of development first-democracy later, India followed the democracy first-development later policy. Dr. Lahiri spoke on the dynamics between politics and economics; neglect of education and health; and reluctance on the part of politicians to admit mistakes. He spoke on post-Independence India's progress in economy, reforms, per capita income, and literacy, among other issues. Dr. Lahiri fielded audience questions on caste, freebies in elections, brain drain, coalition government, and composite culture. He also urged youths to vote.

## PIC ADDA: Lecture on 'Biomobility: Reimagining Transportation', by Dr. Ravindra Utgikar

16 September



Dr. Ravindra Utgikar (left) in conversation with Dr. Sangeeta Kale

The PIC ADDA this month was an enlightening and forward-looking lecture on the topic of 'Biomobility: Reimagining Transportation' by Dr. Ravindra Utgikar, Vice President, Corporate Strategy, Praj Industries Ltd.

At the event moderated by Dr. Sangeeta Kale, Professor in Physics at the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, and member, PIC, Dr. Utgikar explained the need, processes, benefits and challenges of transitioning to biofuels for mobility.

Terming biomobility as a concept whose time has come, he said it is the best bet to limit emissions and curb climate change at a time when there is a clarion call to move to cleaner energy sources.

Dr. Utgikar gave a detailed talk and answered questions at length covering topics like hydrocarbon fuels, "bioeconomy", employment generation and national growth.

Pointing out that India is harnessing biofuels proactively by mixing ethanol with fossil fuel, he said harnessing biomobility will benefit farmers in the rural economy by giving them alternative revenue, creating employment and entrepreneurship in biofuel plants, thus also helping stem rural to urban migration.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A.

## PIC marks 13th Foundation Day; hosts former SBI Chairman Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya

24 September

Pune International Centre (PIC) marked its 13th Foundation Day in Pune on September 24, 2023, with an engaging fireside chat between Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), and Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President, PIC, was the Chair.

Tracing her journey, Ms. Arundhati said opportunities were few when she started out and the choice for her was IAS or banking. She said she could ace the banking exam as she was taking tuitions and doing mental Maths with her students.

She observed that India is a bank-dominated country and that there is the process of



Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya (left) and Dr. Ajit Ranade at the PIC Foundation Day programme

sanctioning loans and yet making banks profitable. She highlighted the problems faced before and after sanctioning loans for infrastructure projects, like getting environment clearances and NPAs.

Ms. Arundhati stressed on the need for women to occupy positions from where they can make a difference and added that flexi work options can prevent their having to quit jobs. Dr. Ranade also observed that if women's participation in the labour force goes up from 20% to 35%, it will raise India's GDP by 30%.

Ms. Arundhati fielded audience questions on topics like customer service and insurance.

Earlier, Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, introduced the guest and spoke about how an idea that started 13 years ago became the Pune International Centre. Dr. Mashelkar pointed out that it was on this day that PIC was born and also spoke about how Arundhati transformed SBI.

PIC's books were also presented to the guest.

## Fireside chat with former NFAI Director Prakash Magdum on his cinematic biography

### *The Mahatma on Celluloid*

30 September



L to R: Mr. Prakash Magdum (left) in conversation with Dr. Milind Damle; Ms. Juthika Patankar, former IAS Officer and Member, PIC, presenting PIC and Gokhale Institute's books to Mr. Magdum and Dr. Damle.

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary, PIC had a fascinating discussion with author Mr. Prakash Magdum on his book, *The Mahatma on Celluloid: A Cinematic Biography*.

What was Gandhiji like in real life as opposed to his depiction in biopics like Richard Attenborough's 'Gandhi'? Mr. Magdum, author of *Mahatma on Celluloid* and former Director, National Film Archive of India (NFAI), revealed many rich insights and shared many anecdotes in a 90-minute conversation with Prof. Milind Damle, Head of the Television Department at the Film and Television Institute of India.

Mr. Magdum mentioned that a small film clip of Gandhi's meeting his political guru Gopal Krishna Gokhale in South Africa is the earliest record of Gandhi on celluloid available to us. After that, till his death on January 30, 1948, Gandhi was followed by photographers and film crews "like a shadow". Undoubtedly, Gandhi is perhaps the most photographed and filmed personality in history.

Mr. Magdum said his research showed that Gandhi never cared for the filmmakers from the

USA and UK who followed him with their heavy equipment all around India. He never posed for them, never dressed up for them or prepared for interviews. He did not allow them to use flash bulbs or lights as it bothered him. They had to shoot him in good or bad light and sit on the floor next to him, if necessary.

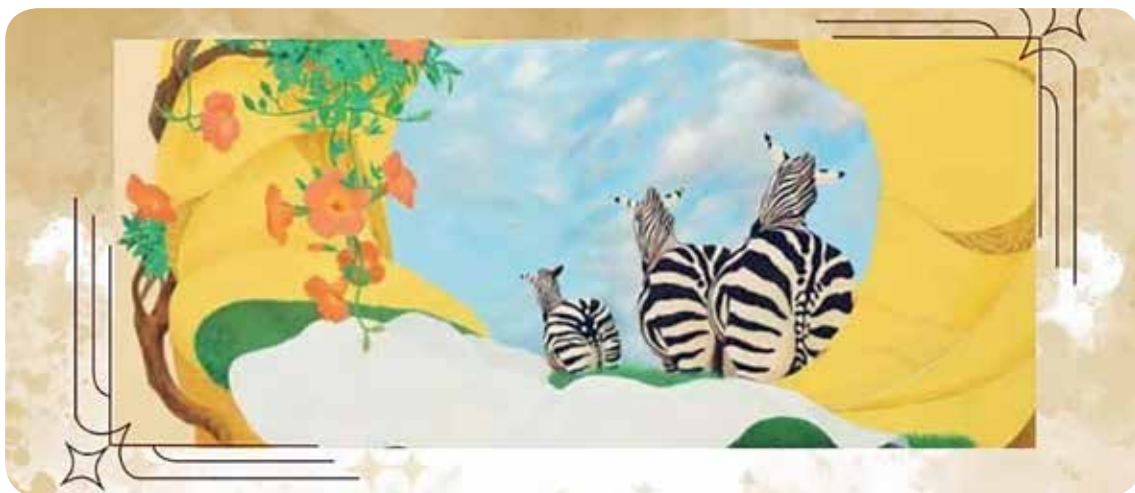
Although he thought that this new American-British technology of film-making was a waste of time, Gandhiji later realised the impact of films and mass communication and became kinder to the filmmakers.

## Events in October 2023

*Three events were held in October. PIC co-hosted the Korean art expo; organised a book discussion on FTAs, by Dr. V S Seshadri; and a discussion with Dr. Deepak Shikarpur on AI.*

### Korean Art Exhibition Celebrates 50 Years of India-Korea Diplomatic Relations

14-15 October



Art display at the Korean Art Expo

Pune International Centre (PIC) was invited to co-host a special painting exhibition organised to celebrate 50 years of cordial diplomatic relations between India and the Republic of Korea.

The Science and Technology Park, Pune; Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU); Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority; and K ART International Exchange Association were the other organisers of the event. The exhibition featured works of about 35 leading Korean artists with about 80 art pieces on display. The exhibition was held in the SPPU campus at Dnyaneshwar Hall, Main Building, from 14th to 15th October 2023.

## Book Discussion on ‘Free Trade Agreements: India and the World’, by Dr. V S Seshadri

16 October



L to R: Dr. Sudipa Majumdar, Dr. V S Seshadri and Dr. Ranjan Dash during the discussion

Pune International Centre, along with Symbiosis School of Economics, on October 16 organised a discussion with Dr. V S Seshadri, IFS (Retd), on his book ‘Free Trade Agreements: India and the World’.

In the conversation with Prof. Sudipa Majumdar and Dr. Ranjan Dash from Symbiosis School of Economics, Dr. Seshadri explained the history, evolution and journey of FTAs globally and in the context of India.

Outlining the beginnings of FTAs in Europe in the 1950s and its expansion in waves over the years, he said FTAs India is involved in are restricted to countries in the Asian region.

He noted that FTAs took a hit after the financial crisis of 2008 as globalisation was criticised and countries shifted focus to self-reliance, especially after Covid-19 and with India focusing on the Atmanirbhar slogan.

He explained how the EU used economic union for economic integration and thereby political integration, and that India too is pursuing agreements with a few countries and also trying to reduce imports but has not been able to do it owing to low-priced imports. He noted that WTO reforms have not made progress because of the ambitions of countries and the China factor.

According to Dr. Seshadri, awareness about FTAs in India is limited when it comes to MSMEs, and industry bodies, not the government, need to take initiatives to handhold exporters.

He highlighted the absence of a level-playing field, the need for India to negotiate better, value addition to products in the country of origin, and the importance of privacy and data security in digital trade.

He said greater economic growth can be achieved by the peoples of South Asia if SAARC gives priority to trade. He also answered questions on the role of AI and tariffs in trade.

## Pune Samwad: ‘The Revolutionary Future of Artificial Intelligence’ (Marathi Discussion)

18 October

Pune International Centre on October 18 organised a discussion in Marathi on the topic, ‘Krutrim Buddhimateche Kraantikaari Bhavishya [The Revolutionary Future of Artificial Intelligence (AI)]’, at Maharashtra Education Society (MES)’s Institute of Management and Career Courses (IMCC) in Pune.



Dr. Deepak Shikarpur speaking at the event.

In the conversation with Air Marshal (Retd) Bhushan Gokhale, Trustee, PIC, Dr. Deepak Shikarpur, Digital Literacy Activist, Author and Career Counsellor, spoke on the impact of AI on various sectors.

Dr. Shikarpur expressed the hope that even if AI reduces job opportunities in the services sector, it will open new opportunities in the technology sector, and business and trade sectors globally. He said while AI has come to be widely used in social media, facial detection, e-payments, research and other sectors, it also brings with it challenges of privacy and data security. The use of AI in native languages will take time, he observed.

Mr. Gokhale urged students to understand the career opportunities in AI and acquire knowledge of the field.

Ms. Swati Raje, founder member, PIC, and Convener, Pune Samwad, introduced the guests.

## Events in November 2023

*The six events in November included the major 11th NCSI and 8th PDNS programmes; a book discussion by Sanjay Kaul; and the 7th Dileep Padgaonkar Memorial Lecture, by Girish Kuber. Also, there was a PIC SI Lab CSR Roundtable alongside the NCSI, and the PDNS 2023 curtain-raiser research paper competition.*

## Book Discussion – ‘An Alternative Development Agenda for India’, by Sanjay Kaul

4 November



Mr. Sanjay Kaul (left) and Prof. Amitav Mallik during the discussion

PIC organised a discussion with ex-IAS officer and development policy analyst Mr. Sanjay Kaul on his book, ‘An Alternative Development Agenda for India’, at Navalmal Firodia Hall on November 4.

In the conversation with Prof. Amitav Mallik, Trustee, PIC, and head of PIC research vertical Environment, Energy and Climate Change (EECC), Mr. Kaul said that India’s development agenda should focus on people, instead of someone at the top deciding for them, and on households, livelihoods and jobs, especially in urban development, as people will move from agriculture to urban areas. He urged improving quality of life, in terms of housing, sanitation, water and other facilities.

He said government development schemes should be made electorally popular for them to be included in election manifestos and implemented in a way that benefits the poor. If the government focuses on fewer development programmes instead of too many, it will be better implemented, he noted.

Kaul pointed out that the current pattern of growth has problems as it creates inequality and that government welfare programme, however good, may not be good if it is not working.

He called for incentivising private builders to make low-income housing and creating denser urban settlements with focus on quality of life. Plotting development, he noted, will not be suitable in cities.

Criticising the obsession with metros, he said introducing air conditioned buses would be a better option for urban transport.

Prof. Mallik highlighted the need to factor in the environment in development plans and warned that the next calamity will be climate related.

Earlier, Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, introduced the guest and spoke about the key topics discussed in Kaul's book.

The discussion was followed by a lively Q&A session.

## Winners of PIC's 11th National Conference on Social Innovation declared

17 November

Of the more than 200 applications received from social innovators nationwide, 18 finalists were selected across Urban, Rural, and Tribal categories, for participating in the 11th National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI), 2023.

In the Tribal category, Aahan Foundation for Social Change won the award for their innovative approach to empowering girls. The founder is Dr. Rashmi Tiwary. In the Rural category, Cowbit Technologies Pvt Ltd won the award for their cattle health monitoring system. The founders are Ms. Diptimayee Mishra and Mr. Ananda Mishra. In the Urban category, Eco Bio Group Pvt Ltd won the award for their Eco BioTraps, a non-electronic, 100% biodegradable mosquito and larvae-killing device. The founder of the group is Mr. Prasad Phadke.

The awards – a cash prize of Rs 50,000 – were presented by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President of PIC, in the presence of Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President of PIC, and Mr. Abhay Vaidya,



(L to R) Mr. Ananda Mishra, winner, rural category, and co-founder, Cowbit Technologies Pvt Ltd; Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC; Dr. Rashmi Tiwary, winner, tribal category, and founder, Aahan Foundation for Social Change; Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President, PIC; Mr. Prasad Phadke, winner, urban category, and founder, Eco Bio Group Pvt Ltd; and Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, at the 11th NCSI (2023)

Director of PIC. Awardees will also get mentorship from mentors at PIC's Social Innovation Lab.

At the event, the 13th Anjani Mashelkar Prize was awarded to innovator Gayatri Choda of Aarca Research for the revolutionary health screening solution, IHRA – Intelligent Health Risk Assessment (IHRA). In his opening address, PIC President Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar emphasised that mentorship is the catalyst for providing “speed and direction” to social innovators.

Chief guest and Chairman of Force Motors, Abhay Firodia, said disruptions are the stepping stones to leadership in the new world and stressed the need for innovations to find markets and create scale. In the valedictory address, Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder of Honey Bee Network, spoke about the rich history of social innovation initiatives and its future.

Mr. Prashant Girbane, General Secretary of PIC, and Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director of PIC, provided a comprehensive overview of NCSI's remarkable journey over the past decade. The presentations by innovators was followed by a lively Q&A session, where the jury and audience asked probing questions to the innovators.

## PIC SI Lab's CSR Roundtable

17 November



Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar and Dr. Vijay Kelkar during the roundtable proceedings along with Mr. Dinanath Kholkar

PIC's Social Innovation Lab organised an exclusive CSR Roundtable and lunch along with the 11th National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI), from on 17th November 2023.

The roundtable aimed at facilitating connections among CSR heads at the conference, providing them an opportunity to share insights into the CSR focus areas of their respective companies. Secondly, it sought to propose a framework for sustained engagement with CSR leaders in Pune, envisioning the organisation of theme-based round-tables at agreed-upon frequencies to foster continued collaboration and knowledge exchange. Lastly, it aimed at eliciting updates from participants on how their companies actively support social innovation through their CSR initiatives. The event, structured around these key objectives, served as a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among CSR leaders, laying the groundwork for future endeavours in corporate social responsibility and social innovation.

The roundtable witnessed active participation from industry representatives. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President, PIC, and Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC, led the proceedings, alongside

Mr. Dinanath Kholkar, former Senior VP, TCS, and Member, PIC. Among the distinguished attendees were CSR heads and decision-makers from organisations such as Tata Power, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Electricals, Tata Trust, Reliance, Weikfield, and Forbes Marshall. Mentors from the PIC SI Lab shared valuable insights from their experiences as social innovators.

The participants from backgrounds from healthcare, environment, education, rural development, to critical societal issues such as child trafficking and malnutrition shared their company stories. CSR heads addressed the challenges encountered in the funding process.

Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar congratulated the CSR heads for their impactful work. He stressed the influence of the CSR industry and the resonance between their efforts and the PIC SI Lab's mission – to transform social innovation into a movement.

Concluding the session, he said: “We have a billion problems, and each problem is important to solve. While each of us works towards solving these problems, we need to have measurement metrics related to the outcome. We also have to stay connected with each other and help everyone with solutions.”

The PIC SI Lab team expressed their interest in hosting similar theme-based roundtables at agreed-upon intervals. This proposal resonated positively with the participants. To facilitate continued interaction, it was decided to create a WhatsApp group for the CSR heads.

## 8th PDNS 2023 Curtain-Raiser – Research paper writing competition

24 November

Ahead of the 8th Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) 2023, a curtain-raiser research paper writing competition for students was held at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) on November 24, 2023. The theme was ‘Pole-vaulting to Economic Security for India’.

Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, GIPE, in his opening remarks, set the tone for the evening with insightful perspectives on the topic. After the presentations by the students and the dynamic discussions, the winners were announced and invited to be felicitated on day one of the PDNS at HQ Southern Command on November 27. The first prize winner is Ms. Snehal Jena; second prize winners are Mr. Vishal Jain and Sachi Khobragade, and the third prize winner is Ms. Bhakti Rupika Anand.



Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar and Mr. Vikas Deshmukh with the winners of the competition

The participants and guests proceeded for a high-tea under the banyan tree, providing an opportunity for further networking and informal discussions.

## 7th Dileep Padgaonkar Memorial Lecture, by Girish Kuber

27 November



Mr. Girish Kuber speaking at the lecture

Pune International Centre (PIC), in association with Symbiosis International (Deemed University), organised the 7th Dileep Padgaonkar Memorial Lecture, at Symbiosis Vishwabhavan Auditorium on November 27, 2023.

Delivering the keynote lecture on the topic 'Contemporary News Media at Crossroads', author and editor of Loksatta, Mumbai, Mr. Girish Kuber, said social media has put news on autopilot mode and has proved that news is too precious to be left to newsmen.

He said the traditional definition of news must change and journalists must add two more 'W's – 'why now' and 'what next' – to the traditional 5 'W's and two 'H's. If journalists do not improvise, life will be difficult, he added.

If media was seen as part of the solution earlier, he said now it is painted as part of the problem as people see it as obstructing the nation's growth.

He urged the media to shed its obsession with politics, and mediapersons to not be cheerleaders but to be pro people and challenge the system.

Climate change, media becoming mere entertainers, and artificial intelligence (AI) leading to journalists losing jobs are the challenges ahead, he added.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director of Symbiosis Society, Pro-Chancellor of Symbiosis International University, and Trustee, PIC, spoke about how Dileep Padgaonkar was interested in everything from the culinary to art and music.

PIC President and programme Chair Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar mentioned Dileep Padgaonkar as someone who left an impact on PIC, Pune, and Maharashtra.

Prof. (Dr.) S B Majumdar, Founder and President, Symbiosis, and Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), presided over the event. Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, Pune International Centre, made the closing remarks.

## 8th Pune Dialogue on National Security – ‘Securing India’s Economic Freedom’

27 & 28 November



(Clockwise from top left) Dr. Surjit Singh Bhalla speaking at the 1st session, on ‘Imperatives for High Economic Growth’, of PDNS 2023 in Pune on November 28, 2023. Also seen are Dr. Ajit Ranade (extreme left) and Dr. Vijay Kelkar (centre)

Mr. Ramesh Inder Singh speaking at the session on ‘Understanding Dissent in Hinterland and Impact on Economic Growth: Punjab Case Study’. Seated is Mr. Pradyot Halder.

Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar speaking at the session on ‘Critical Materials, Minerals, Energy and Supply Chain’. Seated (L to R) are panellists Col. Anurag Awasthi; Ms. Jhanvi Tripathi; Mr. Gautam Chikermane.

Gen. Manoj Pande presenting the first prize to Ms. Snehal Jena, who won the PDNS curtain-raiser research paper writing competition for students held at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics on the theme ‘Pole-vaulting to Economic Security for India’. Also in the photo are Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar and Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar.

The 8th Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS), held in Pune on November 27 and 28, 2023, provided valuable insights on how India's national security can be secured by securing India's economic growth.

On day one of PDNS 2023, held closed door at the HQ Southern Command on November 27 and attended by the PDNS guests, winners of the curtain-raiser research paper writing competition held at Gokhale Institute on November 24 were felicitated. The programme included an introduction to PDNS by PDNS Convener and PIC Trustee Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar (Retd); welcome address by Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, AVSM YSM SM VSM GOC-in-C HQ Southern Command; and address by Gen Manoj Pande, PVSM AVSM VSM ADC, Chief of the Army Staff. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, eminent scientist and PIC President, presented PIC's books to the COAS.

In his opening remarks on day two, PDNS Convener and PIC Trustee Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar (Retd) said the theme 'Securing India's Economic Growth' was selected as economy is at the heart of everything. He attributed India's rise to its sustained economic growth and said if India's enemies were to target the country, they would target its economy.

Welcoming the guests, PIC President Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar highlighted the importance of involving the youths and said it was with this aim that the PDNS curtain-raiser Research Paper Writing Competition for students was held. Titled 'Pole-Vaulting to Economic Security for India', the competition was a new feature of this year's PDNS.

In the first session, 'Imperatives for High Economic Growth', speakers gave insights on what India needs to do to sustain growth. Dr. Surjit S Bhalla, Chairperson, Ministry of Commerce High-Level Advisory Group on Trade, placed economics at the core of national security and said India is in a sweet spot of growth and can become a developed country by 2047 with 6 percent per capita growth. Panellist and Co-founder and Group Chairman, KPIT Technologies and K&P Group Ravi Pandit noted that a cohesive population in good relations with the state is imperative for economic growth and national security and cited energy and artificial intelligence (AI) as crucial sectors. Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, stressed on three Ps – Protect the people, Project power globally, and Preserve sovereignty – as imperatives for economic prosperity. Session Chair and PIC Vice President Dr. Vijay Kelkar highlighted the importance of social harmony, sense of fraternity, and cooperative federalism.

The second session, 'Critical Materials, Minerals, Energy and Supply Chains', focussed on the promises and challenges in developing India's rare minerals sector. Panellist and Vice President, India Electronics and Semiconductors Association, Col. Anurag Awasthi said the

Covid period was a game changer as India realised the importance of semiconductors and rare earth minerals. Panellist Ms. Jhanvi Tripathi, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), said India has the capacity to develop its rare minerals sector but needs the knowledge. Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Rishabh Jain said India's push to reach net zero will decide how the critical minerals sector develops as these minerals will be required for transition to clean energy.

In the third session, on 'Understanding Dissent in Hinterland and Impact on Economic Growth: Punjab Case Study', retired IAS officer and former chief secretary, Punjab, Mr. Ramesh Inder Singh placed dissent at the heart of democracy, while flagging 'violent dissent' as the key problem.

Addressing the Valedictory Session on 'Vision 2047 for India' in a recorded message, Hon. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri said the themes at the PDNS are imperative to making Bharat developed and that by addressing these critical concerns, it can strengthen its national security, ensure economic growth, and maintain competitive edge in the global technology and defence sector. National security and energy security are inextricably linked and 25 percent of the global energy demand growth between 2020 and 2040 will come from India, he added.

Session Chair Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar said we would have a far more peaceful world if we could look at things from others' perspective. Delivering the closing remarks, Lt Gen S S Mehta (retd), PIC Trustee, presented a comprehensive wish-list of demands for India to achieve national security and stressed the need for India to exploit the "sweet spot". Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC, gave the vote of thanks.

## Events in December 2023

*Four programmes were hosted in December, starting with a joint event, Kathayatra; followed by the national conference on 'Securing Demographic Dividend: Agenda for Change 2024-2029'; a lecture by Dr. Ajit Ranade on 'What would it take India to realise its potential growth?'; and the General Bipin Rawat Memorial seminar, titled 'Regional Security: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities'.*

## Bhaashaa Foundation-PIC conference on ‘Borders: People, Lives and Literature’

1-2 December



On December 1 and 2, Bhaashaa Foundation, in association with Pune International Centre, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and Goethe Institut–Max Mueller Bhavan, organised an international conference on ‘Borders: People Lives and Literature’. It was held at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. The inaugural address delivered by Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice-Chancellor, GIPE, and Trustee, PIC.

Founded by Ms. Swati Raje, Chairperson of the Foundation and PIC Member, the latest edition of ‘Kathayatra- Navonmesh – Celebrating Stories of Rejuvenation’ was also held as a part of the festival. Ms. Raje explained that the aim of the festival was inclusive and aimed at preserving the precious bond between generations through storytelling.

## National Conference on ‘Securing Demographic Dividend: Agenda for Change 2024-29’

8-9 December

PIC’s Urbanisation and Economic Reforms research vertical organised a National Conference on ‘Securing Demographic Dividend: Agenda for Change 2024-2029’ in Pune, on December 8 and 9.



L to R: Prof. Ajay Shah, Dr. Ajit Ranade and Dr. Vijay Kelkar on day one of the conference; Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh, Prof. Chandrahas Deshpande, and Mr. P C Nambiar at the session on day two

The speakers deliberated on topics including India's trade policies, urbanisation, rural issues and challenges, and the way forward.

In his introductory remarks on day one, Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice-Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, and Trustee, PIC, highlighted the importance of foreign trade. He said high, sustainable and inclusive growth is India's priority today and that growth should lead to increased employment, productivity and higher wage growth, which, he noted, is not possible without tapping into world trade. He also stressed the need for India to tap into its human capital strategies and invest in multilateralism.

Eminent economist Prof. Ajay Shah, Senior Research Fellow, PIC, and Co-founder of Xkdr Forum, in his keynote address discussed the question of why India's growth has flattened and dwelt on investment processes, labour force participation and resource mobilisation in India.

The five sessions on day two discussed key economic and urbanisation issues prevalent in today's world. It covered topics from securing Industry future, securing urban and rural future, skilling, to securing a green future.

Among the eminent speakers were Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh, Sr Fellow, PIC; Mr. P C Nambiar, Chairman, Foreign Trade Committee, MCCIA; Mr. Pradeep Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International; Dr. Arpan Ganguly, Asst. Professor, FLAME University; Prof. Chandrahas Deshpande, Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research; Dr. Amir Bazaz, Associate Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability, IIHS; Mr. Mahesh Zagade, former Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra; Prof. Pradeep Apte, Research Director, PIC; Ms. Bhushana Karandikar, Consultant, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); Mr. Sitaram Kunte, former Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra; Ms. Juthika Patankar, former Secretary, Central Information Commission (CIC); Dr. Ramanathan Venkateswaran, GIPE, Pune; Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, former President, MCCIA; Dr. Gurudas

Nulkar, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development; Ms. Ann Josey, Fellow, Prayas (Energy Group); Prof. Partha Ray, Director, National Institute of Bank Management; and Ms. Yamini Aiyar, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research.

Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC, chaired the concluding session. Ms. Yamini Aiyar gave the concluding remarks and spoke on ‘Cooperative Federalism: Agenda for Change’.

## Joint Event – Lecture on ‘What would it take India to realise its potential growth?’

11 December



L to R: Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Dr. Jyoti Chandiramani, Dr. Ajit Ranade and Mr. Pradeep S Mehta at the lecture

Pune International Centre, along with CUTS International; Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE); and Symbiosis School of Economics, organised a lecture by Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, GIPE, on the topic, ‘What would it take India to realise its potential growth?’

Explaining what it takes to sustain high growth, Dr. Ajit Ranade highlighted the need for more infrastructure, access to quality education, better healthcare, investment in tech development, strengthening manufacturing sector, deepening the financial sector, stronger foreign trade policy, and environmental balance. He stressed the importance of high-level investment spending with stability and predictability; ease of starting business and ease of

closing of business; judicial reforms; labour law reforms; agriculture reforms; and raising quality of institutions.

Event Chair Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC, spoke about the importance of social harmony and also the need for India to be an open economy in order to overcome resource constraints. Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, was the moderator. Dr. Jyoti Chandiramani, Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, made the opening remarks.

## General Bipin Rawat Memorial Seminar on 'Regional Security: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities'

18-19 December



(Left) Adv. Tarini Rawat, daughter of Late Gen Bipin Rawat, receiving a memento from Lt Gen A K Singh, GOC-in-C, Southern Command, at the seminar on December 19; (Right) Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Col Nalin Herath, Lt Gen A K Singh and Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar (Retd)

Pune International Centre organised the General Bipin Rawat Memorial seminar on December 18-19, on the topic 'Regional Security: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities'.

Organised through PIC's research vertical on National Security, the event saw experts on defence and strategic affairs from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India share key insights on regional security.

The seminar was part of Pune International Centre's 'Vishva-mitrata' series conducted by PIC's PDNS (Pune Dialogue on National Security) and was supported by HQ Southern Command.

The series seeks to extend India's idea of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' to the regional dimension to promote better regional understanding through a consultative process.

Distinguished speakers at the seminar included Lt Gen Pawan Pande, former Chief of General Staff, Nepalese Army; Rear Admiral A.S.M.A. Awal (Retd), former High Commissioner and former Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh; and Col Nalin Herath, Director Media, Ministry of Defence and Director General, Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka.

The keynote address was delivered by Amb. Sujan Chinoy, Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; welcome address by Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, GOC-in-C, Southern Command; and special address by Amb. Gautam Bambawale, former Indian Ambassador to China, Bhutan and Pakistan. Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar, PVSM, UYSM, VSM (Retd), and Convener, PDNS, delivered the opening remarks at the seminar.

The other distinguished speakers included Mr. Vijay Gokhale, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India; Maj Gen Shishir Mahajan, SM, VSM (Retd.), Deputy Director, Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies (CASS); Lt Gen Gautam Moorthy, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.); and Mr. Nitin Gokhale, Strategic Analyst and Founder, Bharat Shakti and StratNewsGlobal.

The speakers emphasised on greater economic integration among the nations in South Asia and on shared values. They spoke on the sensitivity of the various issues for their respective nations and expressed optimism on what the future held for the region.

The speakers highlighted opportunities for economic growth and mutual collaboration in the region along with India's economic growth.

A short film on Gen Bipin Rawat regaled the patriot's life achievements and his service to the nation. Gen Rawat's daughter, Ms. Tarini Rawat, was felicitated with a memento presented by Gen Ajai Kumar Singh AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, GOC-in-C, Southern Command, and Gen Shamsheer Singh Mehta of PIC.

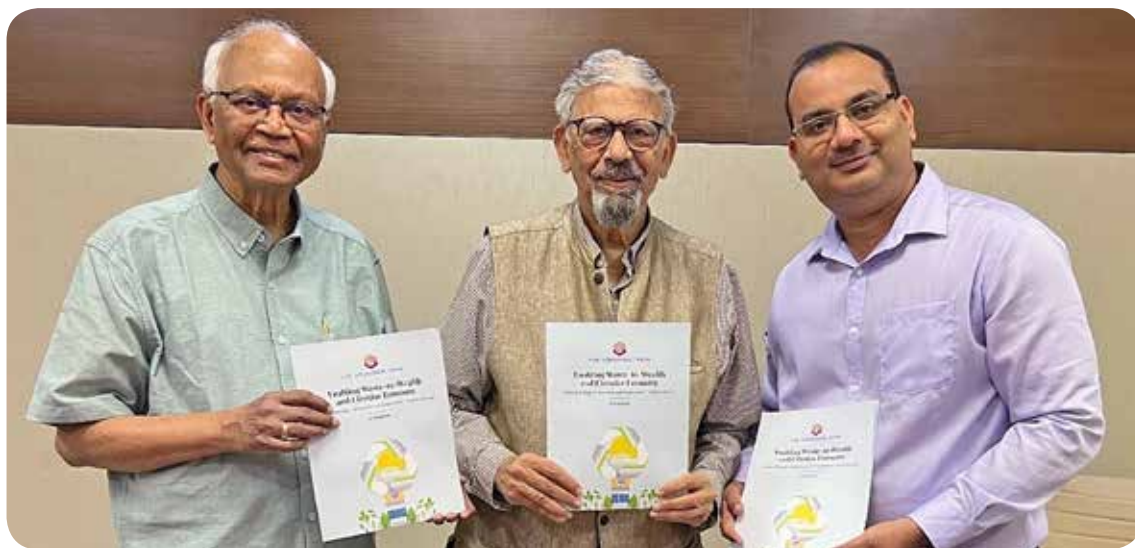
Maj Gen Shishir Mahajan summarised the proceedings and explained the true essence of the topics discussed at the seminar.

## Events in January 2024

*There were seven main events in January 2024. The month started with the launch of PIC SI Lab's playbook 'Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy' and ended with a discussion on the playbook. Programmes in between were a roundtable on 'District-Level Water Security'; Pune Samwad with Dr. Apurva Joshi on her book on financial frauds; a lecture by Jain scholar Prof. Tara Sethia on non-violence; an EECC clean energy roundtable; and a roundtable on 'Decarbonising Real Estate Sector in PMR'.*

### PIC SI Lab's playbook series launched

1 January



L to R: Dr. R A Mashelkar, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, and Mr. Amit Bhargava at the launch of the playbook

This year, PIC's Social Innovation Lab research vertical launched a playbook series aimed to encompass social entrepreneurs from various sectors, serving as a guide that shares insights on the patterns and lessons learned by these enterprises. This series will delve into social entrepreneurship in various sectors like waste management, environment, healthcare, and education.

The pioneering playbook, *Enabling Waste to Wealth and Circular Economy*, was launched on January 1, 2024. The launch was presided over by Dr. R A Mashelkar, President, PIC, on the occasion of his birthday, in the presence of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Vice President, PIC; Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, former President, MCCIA; Mr. Prashant Girbane, General Secretary, PIC; Mr. Abhay Vaidya, Director, PIC; and PIC-SI Lab mentor Mr. Amit Bhargava, who represented all the authors of the book.

With 8 examples of social enterprises working in the waste-to-wealth sector, the playbook, compiled by PIC's Social Innovation Lab, is a guide that shares insights on the patterns and lessons learnt by those enterprises. It is a valuable resource for those working on similar themes and has important lessons for founders of similar startups to keep in mind when running a startup.

The second book in the series will focus on health care sector.

The e-book is available on the PIC SI Lab website ([si.puneinternationalcentre.org](http://si.puneinternationalcentre.org)).

## Roundtable on 'District-Level Water Security: Demand Management and Water Circularity'

12 January



Participants at the roundtable discussion

PIC, along with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics and Pune Knowledge Cluster, on January 12 organised a roundtable on ‘District-Level Water Security: Demand Management and Water Circularity’ to prepare a roadmap for better water management and to ensure water security in Pune district.

Experts and participants deliberated on water use efficiency by residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial sectors; avoiding water wastage; water tariffs and pricing; water circularity by recycling water; developing market for treated wastewater; water governance; using water data insights; and efficient water infrastructure and management.

## PIC research team visits Gokhale Institute Library

16 January



The PIC research team, comprising Mr. Praneet Shukla, Ms. Koena Lahiri, and Ms. Seena Mary Thankachan, along with PIC Director Mr. Abhay Vaidya, visited the library at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) to widen the think tank’s access to detailed academic journals and research papers. During the visit, PIC researchers familiarised themselves with the procedures at the library and glanced through the myriad books and documents at the renowned institution. As a partner institute of PIC, GIPE has always been a pillar of strength

and support, often co-hosting enlightening sessions and events at their campus. The research activities at PIC will benefit from being able to refer to the treasure trove of knowledge at GIPE's library.

## Pune Samwad book discussion on 'फ़िनान्सल फ्रॉड्स (Intricacies of Financial Frauds)'

19 January



L to R: Mr. Rahul Renavikar, Dr. Apurva Joshi and Dr. Sangeeta Kale during the discussion

PIC, in its Marathi programme 'Pune Samwad', on January 19, 2024, organised a discussion on the book 'फ़िनान्सल फ्रॉड्स (Intricacies of Financial Frauds)', written by Dr. Apurva Joshi.

In the conversation with Mr. Rahul Renavikar, CA, and MD of a leading financial advisory firm, held at the Institute of Management Development and Research (IMDR Hall) in Pune, Dr. Apurva Joshi, a prominent financial frauds investigator, and Director, Riskpro Management Consulting Pvt Ltd, said "forensic accounts" was the science beyond accounting. Addressing students on the opportunities in forensic accounting, she said there was a lot of scope for research in the field and that one develops a financial sixth sense by working in it. She related a number of case studies to illustrate her talk.

Dr. Sangeeta Kale, Professor in Physics at the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, and member, PIC, moderated the discussion. The session was enriched by a lively round of Q&A.

## Joint event: Lecture on ‘Non-Violence in the Present Context’

29 January



An illuminating lecture on ‘Non-violence in the present context’, by Prof. Tara Sethia, Founder, Ahimsa Centre, Non-Violent Education, California State Polytechnic University, was held on January 29. Chaired by noted industrialist and Jain scholar Dr. Abhay Firodia, the event was organised by the International School for Jain Studies in association with Pune International Centre, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, and Gandhi National Memorial Society.

## Roundtable on ‘Clean Energy Conclave: Scaling Renewable Energy Smart Microgrids’

30 January

On January 30, PIC’s Energy, Environment, and Climate Change (EECC) research vertical organised a roundtable discussion under the guidance of Prof. Amitav Mallik, Head of EECC, and Trustee, PIC.



Prof. Amitav Mallik and Team EECC members with participants at the conclave

Titled ‘Clean Energy Conclave: Scaling Renewable Energy Smart Microgrids’, the roundtable was a part of the flagship project on the Rapid De-carbonisation Potential of Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR) conducted by EECC. The Centre for Sustainable Development (Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics - GIPE) under its HOD Dr. Gurudas Nulkar, and Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN), under the leadership of its CEO Dr. Priyadarshini Karve, also contributed to the discussion, which saw active participation by key stakeholders in the sector, including MSSEDCL, MASMA, IESA, CES, independent consultants, manufacturers, and companies such as Husk and Power Trust, among others.

Chaired by Mr. Mahesh Zagade, former IAS officer and ex-Principal Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, the discussion aimed to understand current technology and government policies to explore the potential of these technologies, their scalability and probable financial models to formulate a business strategy. Mahesh Deodhar from CSD-GIPE, along with PIC-EECC researchers Ms. Shalvi Pawar and Mr. Chinmay Kulkarni, moderated the discussion.

The aim of the discussion was to develop a holistic framework for the implementation and scaling up of Renewable Energy Smart Microgrids and to share the framework and study report with the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) and relevant authorities of the Government of Maharashtra.

## Roundtable on ‘Decarbonising Real Estate Sector in PMR’

30 January



L to R: Prof. Amitav Mallik, Mr. Ranjit Naiknaware and Dr. Poorva Keskar at the roundtable

The benefits, ways, and urgency of reducing carbon footprint of the real estate sector was in focus at the PIC roundtable on ‘Decarbonising Real Estate Sector in Pune Metropolitan Region’.

Experts from the fields of architecture, energy and environment from the Pune Region participated in the event organised by PIC’s Energy, Environment and Climate Change (EECC) research vertical and VK:e Environmental.

Pointing to statistics showing that the real estate sector can contribute to reducing 26% of emissions, Mr. Ranjit Naiknaware, Programme Chairperson, and President, CREDAI Pune-Metro, said the enormity of the issue is so great that unless we make it statutory to cut carbon emissions, we will miss the bus.

Co-chair and keynote speaker and Director of VK:e Environmental, Dr. Poorva Keskar, said high energy use accounts for 80 percent of emissions from the real estate sector and cutting emissions in existing buildings is one of the “low-hanging fruits” that can be achieved at a low cost.

The roundtable had three sessions, each followed by a Q&A. Dr. Sunita Purushottam, Head, Sustainability, Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd, was invited speaker at the session on ‘Design

considerations for low-carbon development'. Mr. Sandip Sonigra, MD, Orange County Group, was speaker in the session on 'Operational Decarbonisation'. Mr. Ganesh Jadhav, Co-founder, Gangotree Homes and Holidays, was speaker in the session on 'Sustainable Redevelopment'.

Prof. Amitav Mallik, programme Convener, Head, EECC, and Trustee, PIC, stressed on the need to "bend the curve", adding that carbon emissions can be much less in 2030 than in 2020.

The recommendations of the roundtable have been compiled into a report.

## Discussion on PIC playbook *Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy*

31 January



L to R: Mr. Dinanath Kholkar, Mr. Amit Bhargava, Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar, and Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde at the discussion

The authors of PIC Social Innovation Lab's playbook *Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy* on January 31 came together for a stimulating conversation on the book and its ideas. They shared valuable insights on the startup ecosystem at the event moderated by Mr. Dinanath Kholkar, former Global Head, Partner Ecosystems and Alliances, TCS.

Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde, one of the authors, and founder of Lavni Ventures, said the playbook gives a platform for entrepreneurs to share their experiences and is "experiential" and founder-centric, rather than academic. Acknowledging that the initiative was a drop in the ocean, he said a lot more needs to be done.

Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar, author, and Managing Partner at Pentathlon Ventures, said the idea behind the book is to share experiences that will be useful for somebody, and it is not meant to be prescriptive.

Mr. Amit Bhargava, author, and Associate Vice President at Birlasoft, pointed out that finding co-founders with complementary skills and locating startups close to raw materials were key to mitigating risks of startups. He said the playbook was for people who have an idea but do not know how to start, and for those who have started but do not know how to go about it.

Earlier, tracing the history of social innovation at PIC, Mr. Prashant Girbane explained how it had started as a movement at the think tank. The playbook comes as it was felt that there was a need to publish more, he added.

## Events in February 2024

*Five main programmes were held in February. The flagship Asia Economic Dialogue 2024 started in the month-end. In this month, PIC also released an Issue Brief on 'Pakistan After General Elections: Options for India'; jointly organised 'A Festival of Contemporary Indian Films'; jointly organised a lecture by Ram Madhav on 'Framing India in the Emerging World Order'; and held a roundtable on 'Expanding EV Charging Infrastructure'. In addition, a meeting was held with the VIF director to explore collaborations.*

## Vivekananda International Foundation, PIC to explore collaboration

### 3 February

Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), a prominent, New Delhi-based think tank, has expressed a desire to collaborate with PIC and hold discussions/conferences on issues of national interest. A meeting was organised on February 2 with the visiting VIF director Dr. Arvind Gupta, and VIF member Air Marshal Diptendu Chowdhury. Since that meeting could not take place due to fog-related flight delays, Dr. Gupta met Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar, Trustee, PIC, over lunch at the Defence LitFest organised at RSI (Rajinder Singhji Institute), HQ Southern Command. PIC Director Mr. Abhay Vaidya and research scholar Mr. Praneet Shukla



L to R: Praneet Shukla, Air Marshal Diptendu Chowdhury, Dr. Arvind Gupta (Director, VIF), Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar (Convener, PDNS) and Mr. Abhay Vaidya (Director, PIC). Right: Gen Patankar presenting PIC's book to Air Marshal Diptendu Chowdhury

were present for this meeting. Dr. Gupta appreciated a number of initiatives at the PIC and discussed possibilities for collaboration with PIC in future.

## PIC releases Issue Brief on ‘Pakistan After General Elections: Options for India’

8 February

Pune International Centre (PIC) on February 8 (the day of general elections in Pakistan), released an Issue Brief titled ‘Pakistan After General Elections: Options for India’, presenting a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Pakistan and the post-election options for India with regard to its neighbour.

A media interaction was held at the PIC Office to discuss the Issue Brief which was authored by Amb. Gautam Bambawale (trustee, PIC and former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan and former Ambassador to China and Bhutan) along with PIC research scholars Praneet Shukla and Manasi Pendharkar.

Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar, Mr Mukesh Malhotra and Mr Prashant Girbane, trustees, PIC, contributed their thoughts to the paper.



L to R: Mr. Mukesh Malhotra, Mr. Praneet Shukla, Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Ms. Manasi Pendharkar, Lt Gen Vinayak Patankar, and Mr. Prashant Girbane, during the press interaction. Amb. Bambawale briefed the media about the Issue Brief on Pakistan elections.

The paper presents an overview of the dominant role of the Pakistan military; the heavy influence of China on Pakistan; the possible outcome of the elections; and the post-election options for India with regard to relations with Pakistan.

The paper discusses issues such as mutual and reciprocal reinstatement of High Commissioners in India and Pakistan; Pakistan's offer to resume a composite dialogue process with India; bilateral dialogue at the foreign minister's level; steps towards normalisation of trade relations between the two countries; and offers to resume people-to-people exchanges, including cricket and film ties. It suggests that developing a military-to-military channel of communication beyond the current DGMO (Director General of Military Operations) would be more purposeful and productive for India; as also a Pakistan military-to-Indian civilian leadership channel of communication and a dialogue between India's National Security Adviser and his incumbent in the new government of Pakistan.

The paper advises a "wait and watch" approach by the Indian government and an appropriate response to initiatives directed towards India by the new government in Pakistan.

## Joint event – ‘Cinemas of India: A Festival of Contemporary Indian Films’

9-11 February



L to R: Dr. Latika Padgaonkar, Mr. Abhay Vaidya, and Mr. Premendra Mazumder at the inauguration of the film festival

PIC teamed up with the International Federation of Film Critics-India Chapter (FIPRESCI-India) and NFDC-NFAI (National Film Development Corporation-National Film Archive of India) to organise ‘Cinemas of India – A Festival of Contemporary Indian Films’, from February 9 to 11, 2024, at NFAI, Pune.

Curated by writer, editor and PIC member Dr. Latika Padgaonkar, the festival screened an eclectic selection of 12 films from 9 languages, including Marathi, Rajasthani-Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Khasi, Manipuri-Tangkhul and Khasi-Jaintia-Garo. The collaborative effort sought to address the oversight of award-winning independent regional films, provide a platform for their recognition, and also showcase the cultural diversity in regional cinema, often eclipsed by mainstream attention. Significantly, the event was the first instance of PIC joining hands with FIPRESCI, contributing to the promotion and appreciation of independent regional cinema.

The inaugural session, attended by Dr. Latika Padgaonkar, Mr. Abhay Vaidya (Director, Pune International Centre), and Dr. Premendra Mazumder (Secretary, FIPRESCI), set the tone for the screenings.

Mr. Vaidya spoke about how internet is promoting accessibility to the audio-visual medium

and how it is more effective and efficient than written content. Dr. Padgaonkar said the festival was a one-of-its-kind event promoting the regional work, ideas and the intense, delicate and varied flavours of India.

Dr. Mazumder dwelt upon the difference in challenges faced by the film society now. “When we joined this movement 45 years ago in the mid-70s, or when the film society movement was in 1947 at the time of Satyajit Ray, the main problem was to get films from outside, which was a crisis of scarcity; but now there is a crisis of plenty,” he said, pointing out that India is the largest film producer of the world, giving out over 2,000 CBFC certificates.

Among the movies screened was ‘Hya Goshtila Naavach Nahi’ (Marathi) by acclaimed director Sandeep Sawant, known for his work on ‘Shwaas’, India’s official entry to the Academy Awards in 2004. The presence of director of ‘I Am Not the River Jhelum’ during the screening added a distinguished flavour to the event.

The more than 100 cinema enthusiasts at the screening demonstrated the widespread interest in and support for cinema. Beyond being a cinematic showcase, the festival fostered a sense of community and contributed to the cultural richness of Pune.

## Lecture – ‘Framing India in the Emerging World Order’, by Ram Madhav

18 February



L to R: Dr. Ajit Ranade and Mr. Ram Madhav

There is no better time to be an Indian than today as India is one country that stands to benefit in an emerging world order, said Mr. Ram Madhav, social leader, author, thinker, and President of India Foundation.

He was speaking at a lecture on ‘Framing India in the Emerging World Order’, organised by PIC, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) and Pravah, in Pune on February 18, 2024. Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, GIPE, introduced the guest.

Ram Madhav said that to use the opportunity, India should shed its romanticism and be pragmatic; follow a policy of “de-hyphenation”, or what he called “strategic autonomy”; and not see relations with one country through the prism of another country.

He said the evolving world order will be marked by de-dollarisation and the diminishing influence of the US as a world power; emergence of China as a major power; and a new and emerging cold war that will lead to more flashpoints. He pointed to a future multi-polar world marked by rising middle powers; a decline of multilateral institutions like the UN; increased prominence of “mini laterals” like Asean; and “heteropolarity”, where non-state actors like social media, corporations and even terror groups will be influential players.

Also, he said humans will enter an era of intelligent machines; and that climate change will displace one fifth of humanity. All the transformation is leading to a return of nationalism, he noted.

Referring to China as a “little understood country” and the “elephant in the room”, he said India should compare with China in terms of economy and nothing else, and make efforts to be a 15-tn economy, warning that if India fails to be part of the changing world order, it will miss the chance and China will steal the show. “We must tackle China; China comes with deep pockets.”

He said India should shed its obsession with the West and focus on the global south, as the Indo-Pacific is the hub of trade, the Indian Ocean the “zone of peace”, adding that “where there is peace, there is opportunity.” In the next 20 years, India should focus on national unity, prosperity, security on the border and of its citizens, and national dignity, he noted.

In a lively Q&A, he fielded questions on China and the Indian diaspora, which he said was getting more active in their respective countries.

## PIC Roundtable on ‘Expanding EV Charging Infrastructure’

20 February



L to R: Mr. Pankaj Tagalpallewar, Mr. Rajendra Pawar, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Daniel at the roundtable

Amidst mounting concerns of climate change and sustainability, the growing enthusiasm among citizens about electric vehicles (EV) underscores the need to build and expand the entire EV charging ecosystem. The view was expressed at the PIC roundtable discussion on ‘Charging into the Future: An Entrepreneurial Quest for crafting a win-win solution in expanding EV charging infrastructure’, held at MCCIA Bajaj Conference Hall, SB Road, Pune, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

The event was organised by PIC in association with Prayas, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics’ Centre for Sustainable Development, and IESA (Indian Energy Storage Alliance).

Prominent participants included Mr. Rajendra Pawar, Chief Engineer, MSEDCL; Mr. Manoj Kumar Daniel, Deputy General Manager (MMI and TP), Maha Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, Pune; and Mr. Pankaj Tagalpallewar, Additional Director General of MEDA and Superintending Engineer at MSEDCL, among others.

Giving a comprehensive insight on the dynamic of the emerging EV charging Industry, IESA (India Energy Storage Alliance) presented data and perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in the industry. It said key challenges for EV adoption include the high premium price associated with it, range anxiety, access to EV charging stations, in addition to inadequate capital investment, land acquisition and ownership issues, and public parking. Insights were shared on the impact of EV charging on grid, classification of charging locations, EV charging patterns, and charging station guidelines, among other things.

Key points discussed include customer centric business models, rights to charge, data collection for upcoming charging stations, security and safety of vehicles in public places, and future trends. An important aspect discussed was about charging pointers in existing societies and how authorities should mandate it.

The discussion saw participation by stakeholders from MahaMetro, CPO Tech Middleware/ System providers, solar and storage developers, site owners, SMG vendors, and energy analysts.

## Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2024

29 February (to March 2)

Intra-regional cooperation in South Asia is the lowest and it needs to be increased to face the challenges in an era of multiple challenges. This was the opinion shared by participants at the AED 2024, the annual geo-economics conference organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre (PIC), from February 29 to March 2.

The conference, themed 'Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux', began in Pune on Feb. 29, 2024. With 46 speakers from 11 countries participating in 12 sessions over three days at the international conference, Day 1 witnessed insightful discussions on pressing economic matters facing Asia and the world at large.

Welcoming the guests in his opening remarks, eminent scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, FRS, President, PIC, said uncertainty and complexity seem to be the new normal and the pace of technology is having a disruptive impact; as also climate change; income inequality; trade tensions; aging populations; and labour force challenges. Despite these, he said at the AED we would like to focus on strategies for growth. He stressed on leveraging shared resources to overcome the challenges. While thanking India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the continued support to AED and acknowledging PIC's new partnership with ORF, he said



(L to R) Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Convenor, AED 2024; Amb. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, India; Amb. Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, Nepal; and Amb. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh, during the inaugural session on 'Promoting Economic Integration in South Asia', on Day 1 of the Asia Economic Dialogue 2024, on February 29, 2024

next year's AED will be held at the new PIC campus, which is under-construction. He said integration, inclusivity, innovation, industry and ideas were the pillars for strengthening South Asia.

Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Convener, AED 2024, former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan and former Ambassador to China and Bhutan, said intra-regional trade in South Asia was among the lowest, at 5%, and for investment it was at 1%. He said the theme of geo-economics was selected as the last few years have seen great changes in geopolitics, geoeconomics and geostrategy, as witnessed in the Russia-Ukraine and Palestine conflicts, and also the energy crisis, food crisis, and economies in recession, and that AED 2024 will focus on our region, South Asia.

Addressing the conference online, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said greater international cooperation, especially trust and transparency, is needed in the face of challenges of supply chains; the limited supplies; the digital era challenge; and overconcentration of market due to globalisation. He said startups and robust manufacturing can provide a foundation for robust development, and we need to build deep national strengths. He observed that the AED was an appropriate initiative in the changing geo-economic scenario and a representation of the global south.

The inaugural session, themed 'Promoting Economic Integration in South Asia', was chaired by Amb. Bambawale, with Amb. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, Government of India;

Amb. Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, Nepal; and Amb. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh as panellists.

Amb. Kwatra said while the once-in-a-century pandemic created problems like deceleration of the global economy with several economies yet to recover, India's post-Covid growth patterns tell stories in numbers which are not just headline numbers. He said India's GDP projections, FDI inflows, infrastructure development, and the role of digital technology in the economy all present a picture of strength.

The inaugural session was followed by an hour-long Fireside Chat on 'Women and Geo-Economics' with Anniken Huitfeldt, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Norway, hosted by Amb. Latha Reddy, former Deputy National Security Advisor of India and former Ambassador of India to Portugal and Thailand. Amb. Reddy said there are now more women in politics and governance than before but their representation in the corporate sector, especially in areas of finance, economy, banking, boardrooms, labour force and entrepreneurship, is lagging. Also, she said the representation of women in the Indian Parliament should be increased from 33% to 50%.

Amb. Huitfeldt pointed to work-life balance problems faced by women because of lack of child care infrastructure; and women as refugees and who need more support during wartime. She said international cooperation is required to improve the situation of women, and that they should be provided access to education for them to be decision-makers.

Sessions on Day 2 included 'Generative AI: Impact on Organisations and Society'; conversation on 'India's Role in Information Technology and Digital Diplomacy'; 'The Third Globalisation'; 'The Future Automobile and Future Fuels'; 'Drones: Revolutionising the Future?'; and 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): A New Spice Route?'.

## Events in March 2024

*Apart from the concluding of the AED, the one event in March was a discussion on the book **Crosswinds: Nehru, Zhou And The Anglo-American Competition Over China**, by Vijay Gokhale.*

## Asia Economic Dialogue 2024

1, 2 March



Dr. Vijay Kelkar; Amb. Sudhir Devare; Mr. Tenzing Lapsang; Dr. Atiur Rahman; and Dr. Nishchal Nath Pandey on the concluding day of the Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2024

The Asia Economic Dialogue 2024, which started on February 29, concluded on March 2.

Themed ‘Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux’, the conference, organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Pune International Centre, witnessed 43 speakers from 11 countries. In the 12 sessions held over three days, the participants engaged in insightful discussions on pressing economic matters facing Asia and the world at large.

Day 2 witnessed sessions on the topics, ‘Generative AI: Impact on Organisations and Society’; a conversation on ‘India’s Role in Information Technology and Digital Diplomacy’; ‘The Third Globalisation’; ‘The Future Automobile and Future Fuels’; ‘Drones: Revolutionising the Future?’; and ‘India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor’.

The session on ‘Generative AI: Impact on Organisations and Society’ was chaired by Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Executive Chairman and Founder, 5F World. The panellists were Mr. Rajesh Nambiar, Executive Vice President, Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India; Dr. Rohini Srivathsa, Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft India and South Asia; Mr. Nitin Chugh, Deputy Managing Director and Head of Digital Banking and Transformation; and Mr. Jeff Walters, Managing Director and Senior Partner, The Boston Consulting Group.

A conversation on ‘India’s Role in Information Technology and Digital Diplomacy’ featured Mr. Kiran Karnik, Chairman, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, and Mr. Dinanath Kholkar, Independent Advisor and former Senior Vice President and Global Head of Partner Ecosystems and Alliances of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

The session on the topic ‘The Third Globalisation’ was chaired by Prof. Jyoti Chandiramani, Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Symbiosis International University. The panellists were Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Norway; Mr. Rahul Bajoria, Chief Economist, Asia Pacific, Barclays Bank; Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh and Non-resident Fellow at Atlantic Council; and Prof. Lars-Hendrik Röller, Professor at the European School of Management and Technology, Berlin, and former Chief economic advisor to German Federal Chancellor Merkel, and former G7 and G20 Sherpa.

The session on ‘The Future Automobile and Future Fuels’ was chaired by Mr. Amit Paranjape, Co-founder of ReliScore. The panellists were Ms. Ramkripa Ananthan, Head of Design of Ola Electric; Mr. C V Raman, Chief Technology Officer, Suzuki India; and Mr. Yogesh Umbarkar, Vice President, Business Development, Valtech Mobility.

The session on ‘Drones: Revolutionising the Future?’ was chaired by Mr. Anish Michael, Lead, Centre for Future Mobility, OMI Foundation. The panellists were Mr. Mark Yong, Co-founder and CEO of Garuda Robotics; Mr. Aniruddha Gupte, Founder and CEO of Podrones Logistics; and Mr. Sunil Jha of ideaForge.

The session on ‘India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): A New Spice Route?’ was moderated by Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. Panellists included Amb. P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Ms. Anita Prakash, Senior Policy Advisor for International Economic Cooperation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia; Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam, Assistant Professor at Symbiosis School of International Studies, Symbiosis International University.

Day 3 sessions were: ‘Reimagining and Revitalising the WTO’, ‘Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET): Securing Our Future’, ‘Expanding Regional Connectivity: Towards a More Integrated South Asia’, and the Valedictory Session on ‘India in an Era of Flux’.

The session on ‘Reimagining and Revitalising the World Trade Organization’ was chaired by Amb. (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Professor of Diplomatic Practice, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University. The panellists were Dr. Asle Toje, Deputy Leader, Norwegian Nobel Committee, and Dr. Asanka Wijesinghe, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies in Sri Lanka.

The session on ‘Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET): Securing our Future’ was chaired by Dr. Sameer Patil, Senior Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, and Deputy Director, ORF Mumbai. The panellists were Ms. Rachel Rizzo, Senior Fellow, Europe Centre, Atlantic Council; Mr. Toshihiko Kurihara, New Delhi Representative, Japan Bank for International Cooperation; and Ms. Shweta Rao Buntwal, Director, National Security Council Secretariat.

The session on ‘Expanding Regional Connectivity: Towards a More Integrated South Asia’ was chaired by Amb. Sudhir Devare, former Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, and former Ambassador to South Korea, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia and Indonesia. The panellists were Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Dr. Atiur Rahman, Emeritus Professor, Dhaka University, and former Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Tenzing Lamsang, Editor, The Bhutanese; and Dr. Nischal Nath Pandey, Director, Centre for South Asian Studies, Nepal.

The Valedictory Session, titled 'India in the Era of Flux', featured Dr. Vijay Kelkar, eminent economist and Chairman of the 13th Finance Commission, and Vice President, PIC; Amb. Sudhir Devare, former Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, and former Ambassador to South Korea, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia and Indonesia; and Amb. Gautam Bambawale, Convener, AED, former High Commissioner to Pakistan and former Ambassador to China and Bhutan.

## Book Discussion on *Crosswinds: Nehru, Zhou And The Anglo-American Competition Over China*, by Vijay Gokhale

15 March



Mr. Vijay Gokhale (L) and Mr. Amit Paranjape during the discussion.

PIC on March 15 organised a discussion with Mr. Vijay Gokhale, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and Trustee, PIC, on his book *Crosswinds: Nehru, Zhou and the Anglo-American Competition Over China*.

In an enlightening discussion with Mr. Amit Paranjape, Co-founder, ReliScore, and Member, PIC, Mr. Gokhale explored the inner workings of India's foreign policy in the years after

Independence, particularly with regard to China and in the context of the interests of other world powers including the US and UK in the Far East.

He looked at why India, despite being cautioned by the US, recognised the People's Republic of China so quickly after it was established in 1949. He talked about the roles played by leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, China's Zhou Enlai, Krishna Menon and leaders of the US and UK in shaping India's diplomacy after Independence.

Also, Mr. Gokhale posed the question as to why India did not develop a strategic relationship with the United States, which had supported India's freedom from the British.

Going into the history of India's ties with China over the years, he detailed how Britain influenced India's foreign policy in the ten years after Independence. He observed that while the Americans wanted to have an anchor, in the form of China, to preserve its interests in Asia, the British primarily had commercial interests vis-à-vis China and also in how Sino-Indian relations developed. Mr. Gokhale noted that it was this competition between Britain and the US that prompted the British to use even "deception" to get India on their side with regard to how India viewed China.

He pointed out that despite India's presumption of having common objectives with China post-WWII, there were fundamental differences between the two countries. While crediting then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru for not attaching India to the US or the Soviet Union, he said India was also naïve in believing that China saw things in the way India did. China, he noted, saw itself as a dominant power in Asia and felt India had a subordinate position in the Asian order.

During the discussion, he went on to explain how a combination of domestic and international factors determined India's foreign policy with regard to China.

The conversation was followed by a lively round of Q&A.

# PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE'S SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

One of Pune International Centre's focus areas is the Social Innovation Lab (SI Lab), which undertakes initiatives to foster Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI)

Social Enterprise Mentorship Programme (SEMP)

Shared Service Centre for Social Enterprises (SSC-SE)

Capacity Building Sessions (Expert Talk Sessions & Masterclass Series)

Policy Papers and Blogs

## National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI):

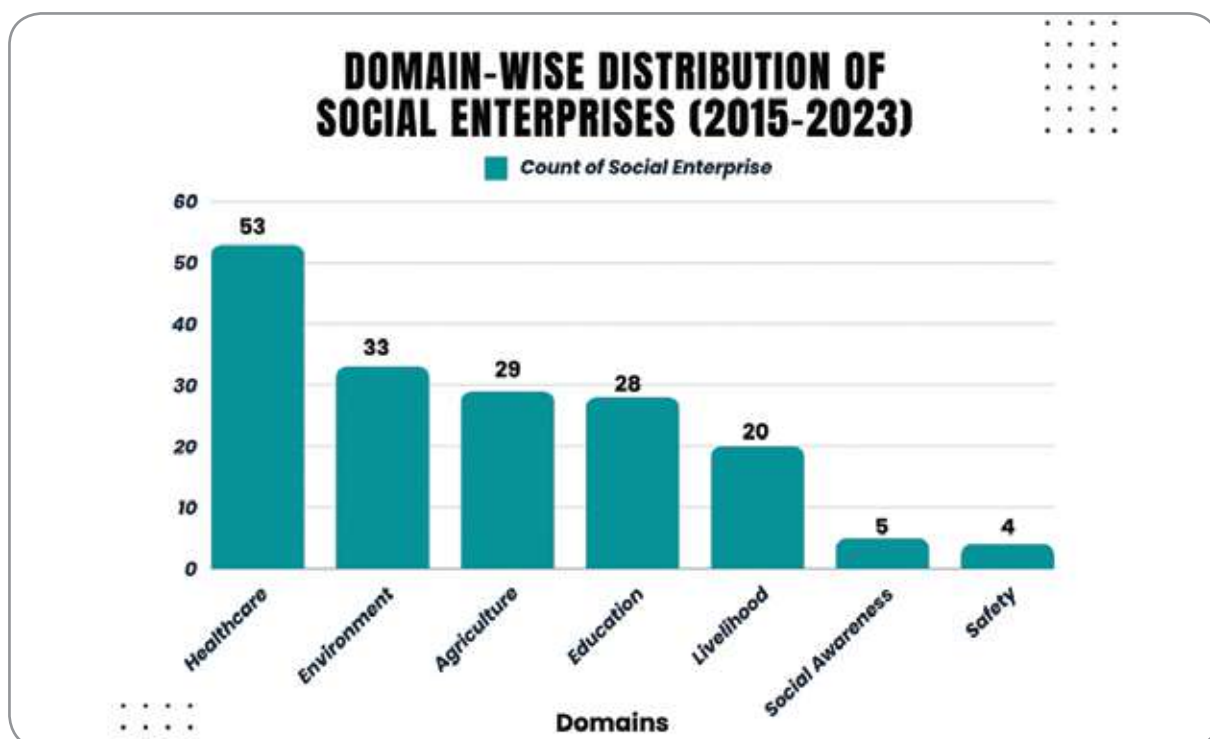
PIC, in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has been organising the National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI) every year since 2013. Over the years, we have successfully organised eleven national conferences, where innovators get a platform to showcase their work and network with prominent CSR organisations, grants and donor agencies, accelerators, and impact investors.

## This programme runs pan India and offers the following:

- Cash prize of INR 50,000 to the winners of each category (tribal, rural, urban)
- Opportunity to be a part of the 9-month mentorship programme
- Showcase and network with leading CSR officers/accelerators/impact investors.

Since 2013, PIC SI Lab has provided a platform for 205 social enterprises to showcase their innovative solutions to impact investors, CSR organisations, and corporations at the national conferences on social innovation.

## PIC SI Lab Enterprises Sector-wise Distribution (2015-2023)



The Social Enterprise Mentorship Programme (SEMP) commenced in 2017, supporting 93 social innovators to date. Each year, ten mentors volunteer over 300 hours of their time, spanning 6 to 9 months, to guide these social innovators.

- Each Mentor: 1 to 3 mentees
- Mentoring Meetings scheduled: weekly/bi-weekly
- Total Duration: 9 months of intense mentoring sessions

## Shared Service Centre for Social Enterprises (SSC-SE)

This digital marketplace links social innovators and service providers, allowing them to access services remotely. The platform provides various services such as digital marketing, website development, export-import documentation, intellectual property rights, legal compliance, pitch decks, and 2D/3D animation videos, all at no cost. The programme is ongoing, and from January 2021, we have assisted 101 social innovators with a total of 158 services. This year, we have supported 79 social enterprises with a total of 103 services.

# Capacity Building Sessions

## 1. Masterclass Sessions

The PIC Social Innovation Lab has launched its Masterclass Sessions for social enterprises starting in February 2023. These sessions aim to provide social innovators with a comprehensive understanding of various industry verticals. So far, 467 social entrepreneurs have benefited from these sessions, and the initiative is attracting more entrepreneurs.

Sessions were held on the following topics in the Masterclass Series:



Ms. Shalaka Gundi

### Human Resource Management

The session was conducted by Ms. Shalaka Gundi (IAF Certified Professional Facilitator) in April, who discussed the importance of the Vision and Mission of an organisation, People Management and Self Leadership.



Mr. Hemant Kelkar

### Company and Legal Compliance

The session was conducted by Mr Hemant Kelkar (Founder of VCounsel and co-founder of Startup Legal) in April, who discussed Founder Agreements, Employee Contracts, Data Privacy and Tax Compliance.



Mr. Gireendra  
Kasmalkar

### Startup Funding for Entrepreneurs

The session was conducted by Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar (Founder Director & CEO of Ideas to Impact, Lead Investor and General Partner at Pentathlon Ventures) in May, who discussed when to raise outside capital, fundraising options for entrepreneurs, key components of the term sheet and how to perform company valuations.



Mr. Jayesh Talpade

### SWOT Analysis

The session was conducted by Mr. Jayesh Talpade (CEO of Acumen Business Consulting) in May, who discussed the role of SWOT in business planning, applying SWOT to design strategy, defining goals and objectives to support system and implementing initiatives to ensure growth and development.



Mr. Anirudha Modak

## Business Modelling Canvas

The session was conducted by Mr. Anirudha Modak (Founder and Principal at Guru on Tap Consulting) in June, who discussed how to identify and communicate key elements of a business model: Customer Segments, Value Proposition, Channels, Customer Relationships, Key Resources, Key Activities, Key Partners, Revenue Streams, and Cost Structure—financial planning and modelling.

## How to Make an Impactful Pitch Deck

This session was also conducted by Mr. Anirudha Modak in June, who discussed the basics of structure and format of the deck- introduction/ title slide, problem statement, solution (products/service), market, business model, adoption strategy, competition, competitive advantage, team, testimonials, etc.



Ms. Nandita Khaire

## Marketing & Branding

The session was conducted by Ms. Nandita Khaire (Principal Consultant at RemBrand Consulting and Director – Business & Corporate Strategy at UJA) in July, who discussed Identification of marketing budget, basics of marketing and sales strategy, introduction to digital marketing, tools for social media marketing-mail chimp, Canva, tracking and understanding user metrics.



Mr. Nitin Ghatpande

## Logistics & Supply Chain Management

The session was conducted by Mr. Nitin Ghatpande (Supplier Quality & Development, Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt) in July, who discussed designing supply chain, managing demand and supply and inventory management.



Mr. Kanchan  
Kulkarni

## Export & Import

The session was conducted by Mr. Kanchan Kulkarni (Director & COO, Vishwaguru Infotech Pvt. Ltd.) in August, who discussed the process of export and import and documentation with the attendees.



Dr. Avanti Doshi



Mr. Jaydeep Doshi

## Effective Investment Strategy

The last session of the Masterclass 2023 series was conducted by Dr. Avanti Doshi (Director at Nirmiti Investment Advisors LLP) and Mr. Jaydeep Doshi (Director at Proinvest Wealth Pvt. Ltd) in August. They discussed General Financial Management, Investment Policy Statement (IPS) and its importance, and other relevant topics.

## 2. Knowledge Sharing Session

In May 2023, we started a Knowledge Sharing Session Series focussed on providing guidance to social entrepreneurs from experienced speakers sharing their expertise. More than 193 social entrepreneurs benefitted from the Knowledge-Sharing sessions.



Mr. Nitesh Bhardwaj



Ms. Akshita  
Sachdeva

## Session on the Process of Raising CSR Funding (Part I)

The first session focussed on CSR funding. The event aimed at providing guidance to social entrepreneurs on the process of raising CSR funding. Former mentees, Mr. Nitesh Bhardwaj from Ulgulan Foundation (NCSI 2020) and Ms. Akshita Sachdeva from Trestle Labs (NCSI 2018), shared their successful fund-raising experiences, thumb rules and insights with the audience. The session was interactive, with active participation from attendees during the Q&A session.



Ms. Sumedha  
Joglekar



Mr. Santosh Phad

## Session on the Process of Raising CSR Funding (Part II)

The second session, on 10th June, focussed on CSR Funding. The event aimed to provide guidance to social entrepreneurs on the process of raising CSR funding. Former mentees, Ms. Sumedha Joglekar from Vaani Deaf Children's Foundation (NCSI 2021) and Mr. Santosh Phad from Thinksharp Foundation (NCSI 2020), shared their successful fundraising experiences and insights with the audience.



Mr. Shubham Singh



Mr. Tanuj Gigras

## **Session on the Process of Securing Government Grants**

The third session of the series was conducted on 29th July, focusing on government grants. The event aimed to provide guidance to social entrepreneurs on the process of securing government grants. Former mentee Mr. Shubham Singh from Craste (NCSI 2019) and Mr. Tanuj Gigras from Nayam Innovations shared their successful fundraising experiences and insights with the audience.



Mr. Rahul Bakare

## **Session on the Process of Acquiring International Funding**

The fourth session of the series, conducted on 19th August 2023, focused on international funding and aimed to provide guidance to social entrepreneurs on the process of securing international funding. Former mentee Mr. Rahul Bakare from Urdhvam Environmental Technologies Pvt Ltd shared his successful international fundraising experiences and insights with the audience.

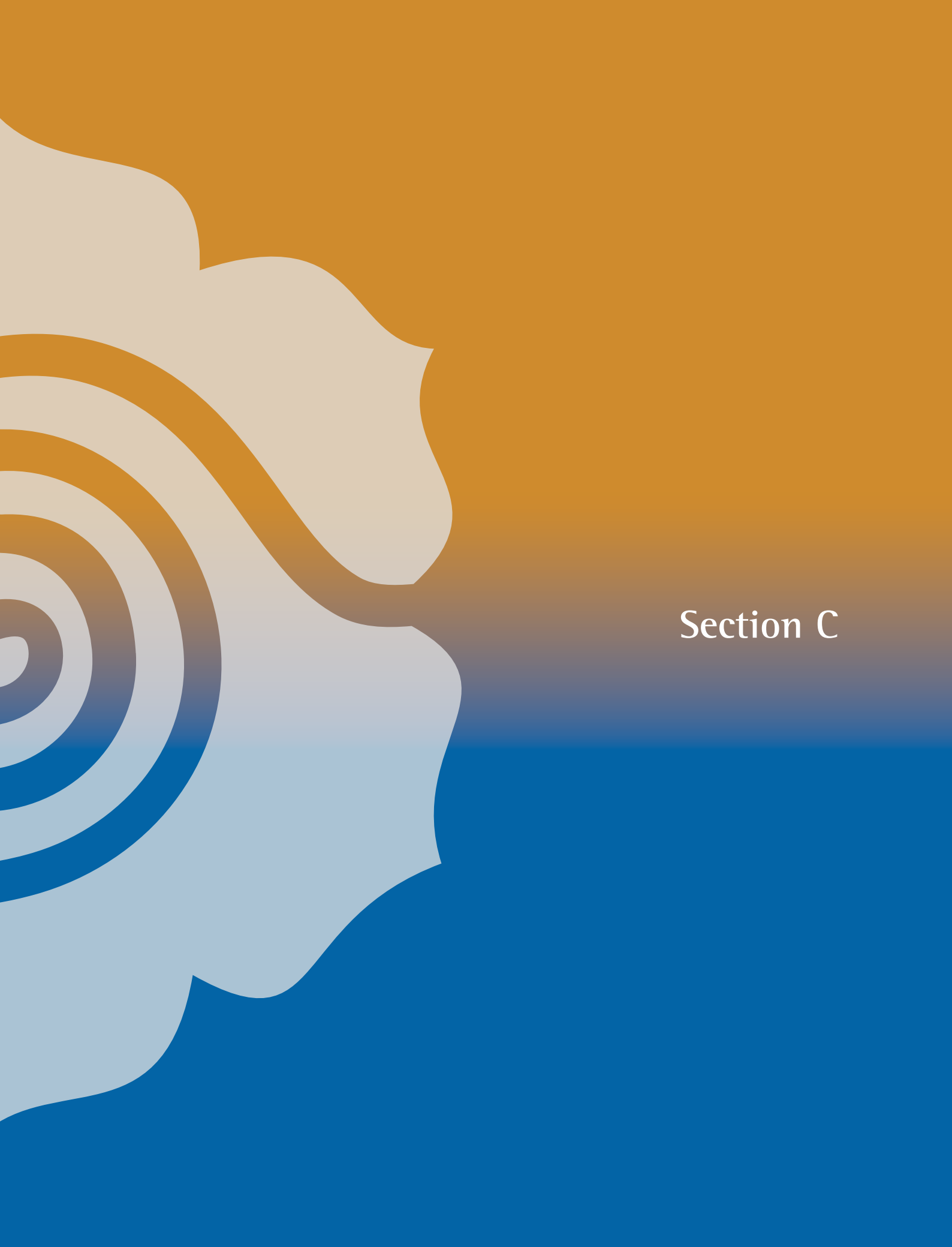
## Policy Papers and Blogs

The SI Lab publishes two research/policy papers annually and has also started a blog series to raise awareness of Social Innovation and entrepreneurship. Every year, the team and mentors publish three blogs. The research/policy papers are a valuable resource for anyone interested in the field, while the blog series is an accessible way to learn about the latest developments and trends.

**The policy papers published this year are:**

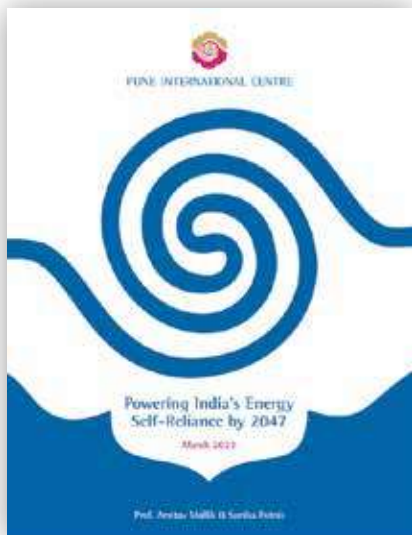
- Pathways to Progress: A Framework for Social Innovation Support in India (January 2024)
  - Women Entrepreneurs' Empowerment (March 2024)
- Blogs published this year:

- How Founders Allocate Time Share and Mind Share, by Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde and Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar
  - Creating Relationship Between Mentor and Mentee, by Mr. Pramod Athalye and Mr. Amit Bhargava
  - Maximising Your Impact: A Roadmap to CSR Funding, by Dr. Anil Dhaneshwar
  - Navigating the Legal Landscape: A Comprehensive Guide to Compliance for Social Enterprises, by Mr. Hemant Kelkar
  - Building a Heartbeat: Human Resources for the Social Startup, by Ms. Minakshi Kotwani
- All the policy papers and blogs are published and available on our website.



## Section C

# PUBLICATIONS



## Powering India's Energy Self Reliance by 2047

India is on the fastest path to development. In the run up to 2047, the centenary year of India's Independence, the country is expected to experience favourable economic and demographic conditions promoting sustained progress over the next two decades. For this economic prosperity to be socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and cost effective, India will have to focus on becoming self-reliant in sectors that have a direct bearing on its national security, peace and societal harmony. In this context, energy self-reliance becomes crucial for issues pertaining to the economy, environment and national security. By the year 2047, India's energy demand is expected

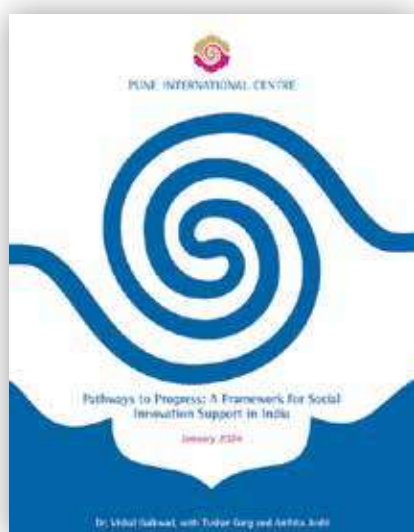
to skyrocket. In a business-as-usual scenario India will continue to depend on fossil fuels and increase its energy imports. However, this is not desirable. This paper highlights various aspects of India's energy transition away from fossil fuels while emphasising the need for self-reliance by 2047.

## Maximising Urban Carbon Sequestration Potential of Pune Metropolitan Region

To meet the dual challenges of a growing global population and mitigating climate change, it is necessary to consider how urban areas can sustainably grow, while minimising impacts on the environment. More than 50% of the world population



lives in urban areas, and the relative magnitude will increase to 60% by 2030. It is estimated that by 2050 every seven in ten persons will be living in urban areas. Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR) can achieve its goal of net-zero local emissions by 2050 if it succeeds in reducing urban emissions in line with current plans. The urban carbon sequestration potential of PMR offers a tangible and actionable pathway towards a more sustainable and resilient future. This model study can be replicated to other major tier-1 cities in India, and globally. By acting decisively on the policy recommendations presented in this paper, PMR can set a powerful example for other regions and nations to follow.



## Pathways to Progress: A Framework for Social Innovation Support in India

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and unprecedented challenges, traditional paradigms of innovation have been called into question. While technology has been a driver of economic progress, it has proven insufficient in addressing many social, economic, and environmental issues that modern societies face globally. These complexities necessitate a broader, more inclusive approach to innovation – one that transcends technological solutions and ventures into the social fabric of communities. Despite the growing significance of social innovation as a tool for addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges in India, there

is a gap in the understanding of how innovation can be systematically supported and scaled. This research paper aims to address key issues such as the current state of social innovation in India; existing support mechanisms; and the role of cross-sectoral partnerships. It proposes a framework for a support system and makes policy recommendations to improve the institutional support system for social innovation in India.



## Playbook Series No. 1: Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy

PIC Social Innovation research vertical's pioneering playbook, *Enabling Waste-to-Wealth and Circular Economy*, marks a milestone in sustainable practices. Inspired by the concept of the playbook in sports—where coaches build playbooks for each game with the objective of winning it—the volume provides insights on patterns and lessons observed from other startups and to be kept in mind when running a startup. The authors, who are PIC Social Innovation Lab mentors with vast experience in mentoring social startups, offer valuable insights on the patterns observed around processes, challenges, and what works and what does not for startups. The first of its series, this playbook—not offering prescriptive guidelines or

operating procedures—is based on the authors' first-hand experiences of mentoring startups that try to solve an ecology or environment problem, sustain themselves by selling their product or service and, in the process, create employment. This goes beyond the theme of “circular economy” and also beyond the theme of “Waste to Wealth” as it may not just be waste that they are using and not just wealth they are targeting. Hence, the book is subtitled ‘Building Ecology, Environment and Employment – (Triple-E) Startups’.

## Position Paper: National Security Preparedness in the Age of Disasters and Pandemics

In the 21st century, the global community faces unprecedented threats and challenges, including frequent epidemics and pandemics, climate change-induced disasters, cyberattacks, and bioterrorism. The Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact, resulting in significant loss of life, economic downturns, unemployment, and increased inequality. The National Security research vertical of the Pune International Centre (PIC) policy research think tank conducted intense deliberations on the implications of this pandemic. These discussions led to the theme for the 6th Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) 2021 conference: National Security Preparedness in the Age of Disasters and Pandemics. The theme included a focus on India's capability and preparedness to handle



both natural and man-made disasters, highlighting the serious implications of climate change and pandemics on national security. The recommendations derived from the conference form the basis of this position paper. The paper aims to address the challenges to India's national security posed by pandemics and disasters and to identify and address gaps in the country's national security preparedness.



## Outstanding Indian Achievers and their Quest for an Atmanirbhar Bharat

Technology drives human progress. India started on the slow side of the technological revolution but in the last few decades after Independence, it has taken giant strides. We were slow in adapting and innovating, as, being a young independent nation, there were challenges. The innovative spirit was dormant, but not missing. It surfaced when two Indian scientists, Dr. Homi Bhabha and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, gave India the hope of harnessing nuclear energy and using rockets in space. Other men of Science wanted to leave their stamp, to harness technology and bring progress to the country, overcoming many obstacles. The paper examines

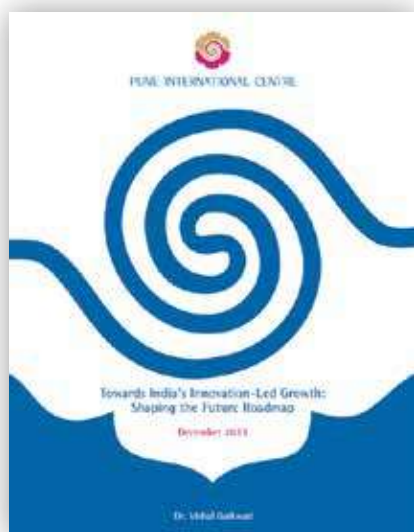
four such achievements and the people who pioneered it to lay a strong foundation for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) by Sam Pitroda; HPL-DEW (High-Powered Laser and Direct Energy Weapons) by Prof. Amitav Mallik, APSOH (Advanced Panoramic Sonar Hull-mounted) by Cmde (Commodore) Arogyaswami Paulraj; and the Param 8000 Supercomputer by Dr. Vijay Bhatkar.

## Science, Technology and Innovation: Policy Recommendations

Science and technology, although distinct, are deeply intertwined fields. Science seeks to understand the "why," producing ideas and theories, while technology focuses on the "how," creating practical applications. Like other policies, the science and technology policy is a curious composite of aims and objectives that differ in their scope, depth, and time frame for accomplishing them. It is necessary to deal with the



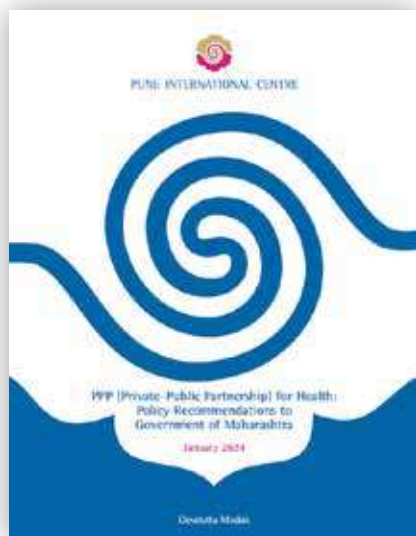
strange mélange of diverse elements. There is esoteric research such as astronomical research in discovering the structure and age of the universe, and research to address earthly questions of vaccine campaigns in promoting primary health care. Each involves diverse technologies and their appropriate spread through innovative means. Effective policymaking needs to take these dynamics into account, as advancements in science drive technological innovation and vice versa. Policies must adapt to the unique challenges of their subject matter and support new businesses until they achieve economic sustainability. This paper discusses these in detail for effective policymaking and a better, sustainable future.



## Towards India's Innovation-led Growth: Shaping the Future Roadmap

In today's rapidly evolving world, the concept of innovation and its role in driving economic growth has gained prominence. India, too, has witnessed various initiatives in the past, such as the 'decade of innovation' initiative. However, the world is poised to undergo further transformation. Recent global events, like the pandemic and geopolitical shifts, have upended established norms, forcing nations to adapt and redefine their strategies. India finds itself in a unique position as a rising star. With its economic stability, abundant resources, and technological advancements, India has the potential to lead the way in the new world order. India aspires to become

a developed nation with a twenty-five-trillion-dollar economy by 2047. However, the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) demands a comprehensive roadmap. For this, it is crucial to nurture a conducive ecosystem that fosters innovation, research, and development. This paper explored the many aspects of India's innovation-led growth, identifying key opportunities, challenges, and strategies to propel the nation towards its desired future.



## PPP (Private-Public Partnership) for Health: Policy Recommendations to Government of Maharashtra

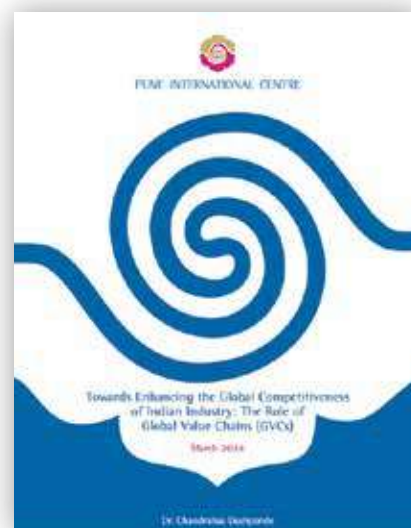
The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the need for governments to overhaul health policies and implementation. It taught us that complete government protection is not possible, and also pointed to the inevitable interconnectedness of regions and the importance of pre-existing health. This paper lays out several policy measures that aim to mitigate future pandemics and improve overall health outcomes. Key recommendations include having policies that focus on health over medicine and encourage personal responsibility; starting health care from birth with family responsibility for immunisations and health monitoring and transitioning

to individual responsibility post-school with regular check-ups; employers, communities, and governments sharing health responsibilities; and individuals maintaining personal and family health and health insurance. The paper proposes initiatives for Maharashtra in the first phase, such as mandating universal health and accident insurance; implementing health education in schools; incentivising exercise and wellness programmes; forming PPP companies for insurance, medical infrastructure, and education; and several other measures.

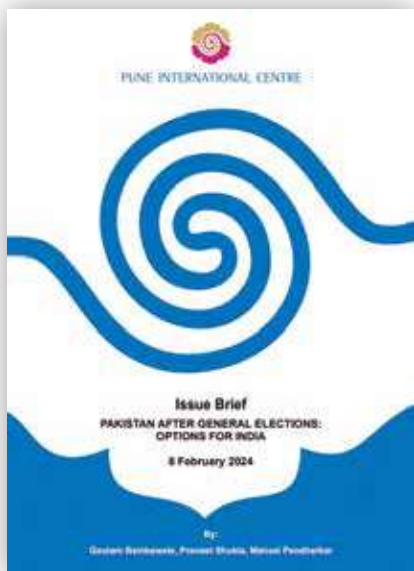
## Towards Enhancing the Global Competitiveness of Indian Industry: The Role of Global Value Chains (GVCs)

Today, most of the production and trade of goods and services among nations takes place through coordination of processes or 'tasks' among various locations throughout the world. These are 'international production or services networks', termed in trade literature as global value chains, or GVCs. They are integral to modern-day globalisation. GVCs have a significant role to play in global production, trade, and foreign direct investment (FDI), highlighting their significance despite recent disruptions like the global financial crisis of 2009 and the Covid-19 pandemic of 2019.

This paper explores the current GVC landscape, focusing on its implications for India. It explores global GVC trends, the Indian industrial context, and suggests policy reforms to enhance the



competitiveness and efficiency of Indian industry through GVCs. It presents an introduction to GVCs, their pre- and post-pandemic developments, an India-centric analysis, rationale for a GVC-led strategy for Indian industries, recommended policy reforms, and concluding observations.



## Issue Brief: Pakistan after General Elections: Options for India

PIC on February 8, 2024, released an Issue Brief titled 'Pakistan After General Elections: Options for India', presenting a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Pakistan and the post-election options for India with regard to its estranged neighbour. Authored by PIC's trustee, Ambassador Gautam Bambawale, former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan and ambassador to China and Bhutan, and PIC research scholars Praneet Shukla and Manasi Pendharkar, the paper presents a comprehensive overview of the political and economic crisis in Pakistan; the dominant role of the Pakistan military; the heavy influence of China on Pakistan; the possible outcome of the elections; and the post-election

options for India with regard to relations with Pakistan. It discusses issues such as mutual and reciprocal reinstatement of High Commissioners in India and Pakistan; Pakistan's offer to resume a composite dialogue; bilateral dialogue at the foreign minister's level; steps towards normalisation of trade ties; and offers to resume people-to-people exchanges, including cricket and film ties.

# FINANCE

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2024

FY 22-23 Amount (Rs)	EXPENDITURE	Sch	Amount Rs.	FY 22-23 Amount (Rs)	INCOME	Sch	Amount Rs.
	<i>To Expenditure in respect of properties</i>			-	<i>By Rent</i>		-
	- Rates, taxes, cesses		-		<i>By Interest</i>		
	- Repairs and Maintenance		-	-	- on securities		-
	- Salaries		-	41,442.00	- on Income Tax Refund		83,735.00
	- Insurance		-		- on bank account		
	- Depreciation		-	56,161.00	Savings Bank Accounts		61,515.00
	(by way or provision or adjustments)		-	5,993,130.90	Fixed Deposit Accounts		1,276,204.00
	- Other expenses		-				
6,046,457.61	<i>To Establishment Expenses [As per Schedule 4]</i>	4	6,671,387.63	-	<i>By Dividend</i>		-
-	<i>To Remuneration to trustees</i>		-	-	<i>By Donations in cash or kind</i>		-
	<i>To Remuneration (in the case of a math) to the head of the math, including his household expenditure, if any</i>		-		<i>By Grants</i>		-
					<i>By Income from other sources</i>		
				2,030,496.00	- Annual Membership Fees		2,415,113.00
				-	- Scrap Sale		-
				71,898.01	- Others		96,283.72
143,500.00	<i>To Legal expenses</i>		236,500.00	15,111,495.00	<i>By Transfer from Social Programme Fund</i>	1	30,882,198.50
25,000.00	<i>To Audit fees</i>		25,000.00				
-	<i>To contribution and fees</i>		-				
	<i>To Amount written off</i>						
	(a) Bad debts		-				
	(b) Loan scholarships		-				
	(c) Irrecoverable rents		-				
	(d) Other items		-				
	<i>To Miscellaneous Expenses</i>		-				
163,322.90	<i>To Depreciations</i>	2	175,514.50				
-	<i>To Amounts transferred to Reserve or specific funds</i>		-				
	<i>To Expenditure on objects of the Trust</i>						
	(a) Religious		-				
	(b) Educational		-				
	(c) Medical relief		-				
	(d) Relief of poverty		-				
13,485,457.14	(e) Other charitable objects [As per Schedule 5]	5	26,549,855.59				
3,440,885.26	<i>By Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet [Excess of Income over Expenditure]</i>		1,156,791.50				
23,304,622.91	<b>Total</b>		<b>34,815,049.22</b>	23,304,622.91	<b>Total</b>		<b>34,815,049.22</b>

Dated 28-06-2024 at Pune

As per our report of even date

For Pune International Centre

For G.D.Apte & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No.100515W

Trustees

Ranjeet Kulkarni  
Partner  
Membership No.132708

# PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

## Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2024

FY 2022-23 Amount (Rs)	FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	Sch	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.	FY 2022-23 Amount (Rs)	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Sch	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.
93,115,653.21	<b>Trust Funds or Corpus</b> Balance as per last balance-sheet Add: Corpus contributions (Directly Credited)		93,115,653.21 3,800,000.00	96,915,653.21	31,530,846.26	<b>Immovable properties</b> Leasehold Land Capital Work-in Progress		- 197,397,163.21	197,397,163.21
-	<b>Other earmarked funds</b> (Created under the provisions of the trust-deed or scheme or out of the Income)		-	-		<b>Investments</b> <b>Movable Assets</b> <b>Furniture and fixtures</b> [As per Schedule 2]	2	160,774.80	
-	- Depreciation Fund		-	-	1,033,249.40	<b>Others</b> (As per Schedule 2)	2	365,675.09	526,449.90
-	- Sinking Fund		-	-		<b>Loans (secured or unsecured)</b> - Good/doubtful		-	-
-	- Reserve Fund		-	-		Loan Scholarships		-	-
40,694,558.00	- Any other Fund - [Social Programme Fund] - [Building Fund] [As per Schedule 1]	1 1	19,022,094.59 484,600,000.00	503,622,094.59	-	Other loans		-	-
-	<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured)</b> From Trustee		-	-	-	<b>Advances -</b> To Trustees		-	-
-	From others		-	-	-	To employees		-	-
-	<b>Liabilities</b> For expenses (Duties & Taxes)		877,477.15	5,768,204.05	-	To contractor		-	-
122,850.00	For advances		5,000.00	-	-	To lawyers		-	-
-	For rent or other deposits		-	534.00	-	To others [As per Schedule 3]	3	-	9,340,608.75
495,241.00	For sundry credit balances		-	-	26,751.00	<b>Cash and Bank Balances</b> Cash in Hand with Sr. Accounts Officer		-	18,571.00
						Balances with IDBI Bank, SBI & HDFC Bank in Current & Savings Account in the name of Pune International Centre		156,037,932.80	
					82,362,426.71	in Fixed Deposit Account in the name of Pune International Centre		225,550,000.00	381,587,932.80
						<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account:</b> Balance as per last Balance Sheet		13,706,824.79	
					13,706,824.79	Less: Surplus as per Income & Expenditure Account		-1,156,791.50	12,550,033.29
134,428,302.21	<b>Total</b>			<b>601,420,758.95</b>	134,428,302.21	<b>Total</b>			<b>601,420,758.95</b>

Note: Income outstanding - Rs. 1,57,01,156/-

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

Dated 28-06-2024 at Pune

For Pune International Centre



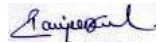
Trustees



As per our report of even date

For G.D.Apte & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No.100515W





Ranjeet Kulkarni  
Partner  
Membership No.132708

**Schedule 1: Details of “Other Earmarked Funds”**

Particulars	Social Programme Fund	Building Fund	Total
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>8,894,558.00</b>	<b>31,800,000.00</b>	<b>40,694,558.00</b>
Additions during the year (Direct addition)	41,009,735.09	452,800,000.00	<b>493,809,735.09</b>
Transfer to I & E during the year	30,882,198.50	-	<b>30,882,198.50</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>19,022,094.59</b>	<b>484,600,000.00</b>	<b>503,622,094.59</b>

Please refer Annex-1

**Schedule 2: Fixed Assets**

Particulars	Furniture and Fixtures	Computers	Office Equipment	Computer Software	Total
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>181,393.67</b>	<b>179,871.75</b>	<b>163,798.65</b>	<b>7,685.32</b>	<b>532,749.39</b>
Additions For More than 180 Days (1st Apr to 27th Sept)		129,050.00	42,920.00		<b>171,970.00</b>
Additions For Less than 180 Days (28th Sept to 31st Mar)					-
Deletions during the year	2,755.00	-	-	-	<b>2,755.00</b>
Depreciation for the year	17,863.87	123,568.70	31,007.80	3,074.13	<b>175,514.49</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>160,774.80</b>	<b>185,353.05</b>	<b>175,710.85</b>	<b>4,611.19</b>	<b>526,449.90</b>

**Schedule 3: Details of “Other Advances”**

# Sr	Particulars	Amount Rs.
1	Income Tax Deducted at Source	4,232,863.97
2	Income Tax TDS paid	-
3	Office Deposit	541,910.68
4	Library & Other Deposit	9,000.00
5	Security Deposit for MSEDCL & Maharashtra Govt.	3,214,930.00
6	Other Advances to Admin & Office Assistants for trust work	32,446.10
7	Goods & Service Tax Receivable	1,309,458.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,340,608.75</b>

**Schedule 4: Details of “Establishment Expenses”**

# Sr	Particulars	Amount Rs.
1	Fees For Professional Services	85,221.00
2	Bank Charges	17,935.04
3	Telephone & Internet Charges	87,991.98
4	Office Electricity Charges	15,330.00
5	Travelling & Conveyance	38,669.00
6	Meeting Expenses	73,462.00
7	Repair & Maintenance Expenses	42,887.00
8	Staff Welfare	151,640.00
9	Drive Storage	1,144.80
10	Office Expenses	176,978.80
11	Insurance Expenses	172,465.00
12	Salary & Honararium Payble	3,131,588.00
13	Courier Expenses	19,366.80
14	Zoho Creator & People Subscriptios	185,000.00
15	Printing & Stationery	191,157.21
16	Rent Rates & Taxes	2,244,000.00
17	Interest on Taxes	36,551.00
18	IT Support	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,671,387.63</b>

**Schedule 5: Details of “Expenditure on Other Charitable Objects”**

# Sr	Particulars	Amount Rs.
1	Program Related Professional Fees	5,727,101.00
2	Fellowship	943,344.00
3	Professional Fees - Internship	498,909.00
4	Programme Expenses	17,956,963.41
5	Publications	681,141.33
6	Social Media Expenses	742,396.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,549,855.59</b>

**Annexure 1: EARMARKED FUNDS - SOCIAL PROGRAM FUND SUMMARY FOR THE FY 2023-24**

Particulars	Tata Trust	KPIT	JSW	BP India	Others	Total
<b>Opening Balances</b>	2,321,243	-	-	1,837,527	4,735,788	8,894,558
Funds Received during the year	15,061,368	2,567,968	2,000,000	-	21,380,398	41,009,734
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>17,382,611</b>	<b>2,567,968</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,837,527</b>	<b>26,116,186</b>	<b>49,904,292</b>
Expenses for the year	9,559,048	2,567,968	1,773,208	1,837,527	15,144,448	30,882,199
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,559,048</b>	<b>2,567,968</b>	<b>1,773,208</b>	<b>1,837,527</b>	<b>15,144,448</b>	<b>30,882,199</b>
<b>Funds/Balance Remaining</b>	<b>7,823,564</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>226,792</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,971,738</b>	<b>19,022,094</b>

**EARMARKED FUNDS - BUILDING FUND SUMMARY FOR THE FY 2023-24**

Particulars	Tata Trust	Reliance Foundation	Bajaj Trust	JM Financials Foundation	PIC Own & Others	Total
<b>Opening Balances</b>	24,800,000	-	-	-	7,000,000	31,800,000
Funds Received during the year	67,800,000	200,000,000	100,000,000	50,000,000	35,000,000	452,800,000
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>92,600,000</b>	<b>200,000,000</b>	<b>100,000,000</b>	<b>50,000,000</b>	<b>42,000,000</b>	<b>484,600,000</b>

# STAFF

SR. NO	SAL.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Mr.	Abhay Vaidya	Director
2	Ms.	Kiran Pardeshi	Chief Administrative Officer
3	Mr.	Neeraj Thakur	Head, Social Innovation Lab (SI Lab)
4	Ms.	Geeta Hosmane	Sr. Programme Officer
5	Mr.	Dinesh Duggal	Documentation Officer
6	Mr.	Tejas Pawar	Admin Executive
7	Mr.	Ganesh D. Dhebe	Sr. Accounts Officer
8	Ms.	Pooja Rajput	Accounts Executive
9	Ms.	Koena Lahiri	Policy Research Associate
10	Ms.	Archita Joshi	Research Analyst (SI Lab)
11	Ms.	Samruddhi Isave	Programme Co-ordinator (SI Lab)
12	Mr.	Praneet Shukla	Research Analyst (National Security)
13	Mr.	Akash Kadam	Office Assistant
14	Col.	Rajendra Kenjalkar	Project Manager (PIC Campus)
15	Mr.	Ganesh Kale	Site Engineer (PIC Campus)
16	Mr.	Dyandev Bhise	Site Supervisor (PIC Campus)
17	Mr.	Siddharth Bhagwat	Project Manager (EECC)
18	Ms.	Shalvi Pawar	Research Assistant (EECC)
19	Mr.	Shantanu Ayachit	Research Assistant (EECC)
20	Ms.	Megha Phadkay	Research Assistant (EECC)
21	Ms.	Sanika Potnis	Research Assistant (EECC)
22	Ms.	Seena Mary Thankachan	Research Associate
23	Ms.	Rajlaxmi Deshmukh	Research Intern (Urbanisation)
24	Mr.	Arvindraj Nadar	Research Intern
25	Ms.	Sakshi Lata	Research Intern
26	Ms.	Sanyukta Chougale	Sr. Research Intern
27	Mr.	Chinmay Kulkarni	Sr. Research Intern
28	Ms.	Manasi Pendharkar	Research Intern
29	Ms.	Chaitra Apte	Research Intern
30	Ms.	Lakshya Saikia	Intern, Graphic Design

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also thank the following for their support and assistance:

- Staff of President, Vice-President, Treasurer (Hon.) and General Secretary (Hon.)
- Our Bankers: IDBI Bank, Chinchwad Branch; State Bank of India (SBI), SB Road, Pune; and HDFC Bank, Bhandarkar Road Branch, Pune
- Mr. Ganesh Gamare, Graphic Designer
- Our Auditors: M/S. S K Ekhe & Associates and M/S G D Apte & Co.
- Our Legal Advisor: Lexeye Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Our Social Media Consultant Ms. Madhura Nanivadekar and Senior Editor Pradeep Kumar G. Nair
- All interns who interned with PIC during the year.

PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



## PUNE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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