

RANWA is a small, decade old NGO registered as a Public Charitable Trust at Pune. Its objectives include environmental research, education and activism.

RANWA means wilderness in vernacular! Its **objectives** include nature Environmental research, education and activism everywhere, primarily through college students.

RANWA membership is informal & open to all. Just volunteer to help with its nature programs often & you become a member!

RANWA activities include week-end nature education trails around city hills, gardens & lakes, as well as talks and programs for both general nature lovers and students; These highlight beauty and variety of plants, birds and butterflies as well as ways to study & conserve them, beginning from your home garden! **Research projects** document plants, animals as well as destructive and constructive human activities especially in western Maharashtra. **Actions promote** plantation of local plants species as well as support environmental campaigns.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Smita Sahasrabudhe

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RANWA

(Research and Action in Natural Wealth Administration)

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PUNE... BREATHING EASY ?

Pune City has always been appreciated as a '*Pensioners' Paradise*, due to its salubrious climate and fresh clean air.

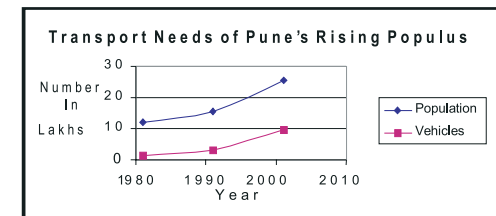
Today the situation has changed. With 7000 new vehicles on the road each month, air pollution has reached to such an extent that, this metropolis is choking on its own vehicular exhaust.

Oxygen Bars once laughed off as fantasy will soon open in Pune discotheques, to let people to experience pure, fragrant air by the lung full!

Though capital of Maratha Empire for more than 150 years, Pune leapfrogged into modernisation only in the past 100 odd years. With educational institute attracting qualified youth, and booming industrial growth, the rate of immigration remained high. And now Punes' population is a whopping 41 lakhs! With a large middle base and bad public transport, it is obvious that the number of vehicles increase in leaps and bounds.

TRAFFIC JAM

PMC and PCMC together have over 15 Lakh vehicles (2002). The number of cars in Pune has increased fourfold in the past 10 years.



Vehicle Mis-situtation of Pune

Type of Vehicle	No. of Vehicles	Rank
2 Wheelers	10,05,515	Topper
Cars	1,13,757	1st Runner up
Rickshaws	56,387	2nd Runner up
Trucks	26,957	
Six Seaters	5,521	

	Permissible Limit (ppm)	Average in Pune (ppm)
PM ₁₀	60 - 100	83
NO ₂	60 - 80	62
SO ₂	60 - 80	37

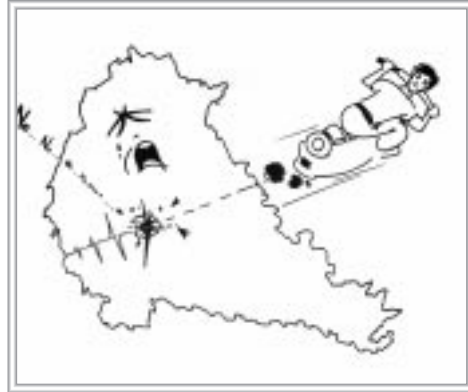
POLLUTION

The air quality of Pune's surroundings is deteriorating rapidly. Everyday hundreds of tons of polluted air is released in Pune. Vehicular pollution contribution to Pune's air pollution is approximately 40%. The average pollution levels in the city air are given in the adjoining table. These pollutants rise to alarming concentrations at many places during the course of the day.

SHOUT

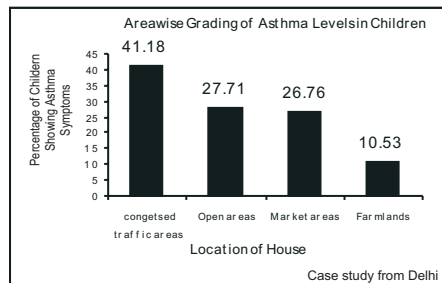


The city's traffic is also louder than the permissible noise level of 70 dB, reaching up to 125 dB during rush hours. At City post and Karve Road, most commuters and neighbourhoods of busy roads are exposed to around 95dB noise. The problem still worsens during Ganesh Festival and Diwali.



EFFECTS

Particulate matter, chemicals like hydrocarbons, Ozone, SO_x and emissions from leaf burning cause respiratory health problems like asthma, susceptibility to coughs, colds, pneumonia, tuberculosis, skin allergies and eye irritation. (10 % increase in diseases). Monsoons and winters accentuate these problems by creating smog. Air pollution also affects the heart, depletes physical strength, and promotes cancer and skin diseases. To escape the congestion, many Puneites flock to nearby hills and open spaces, such as the Vetal hill, Parvati- Panchgaon, Simhadgaon for a breath of fresh air



WHOM TO BLAME ?

With the rising population and standard of living, the number of vehicles is growing proportionately. To combat congestion, the roads are being widened at the cost of trees - Nature's air purifiers. Trees planted along roads long before independence contribute

in reducing air and noise pollution, even today. Their rapid disappearance is aggravating the problem. A better option would be to wipe out the root cause. Hence, the RTO at Pune is thinking of reducing the registration of new two wheelers. Six-seaters have also been banned from the city limits. Also, Hindustan Petroleum has introduced LPG for vehicles, after the RTO has permitted the use of LPG in two and four wheelers! Now the situation is expected to improve substantially.

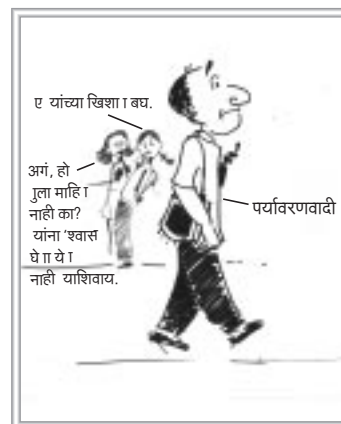


We too can contribute in reducing pollution :

- **Save Energy** : For every article we purchase and the electricity, fuel and water we use, there is a corresponding amount of energy used, at the cost of the environment. By keeping our needs and greed minimum, we can prevent pollution.
- **Shop Smart** : Ensure that the products you buy, and their packaging don't contain air polluting agents like CFC, aerosols etc.
- **Carpool** : Share transport for maximum benefit. Use public transport wherever possible.
- **Alternative Fuel** : Lets move with the world! Drive Electric and LPG cars and scooters market. It's trendy and healthy. Switching to greener fuel options such as ethanol - petrol and biodiesel will help us in reducing toxic emission significantly.
- **Maintenance**: Regular vehicle servicing ensures longer vehicle life, less pollution and a smoother drive. An all smiles option!
- **Take a hike!** : Walk, cycle and use public transport as much as possible.

These are inexpensive ways to lead healthy and adventurous lives.

- **Love Trees** : Plant some, protect all.



Take it easy policy

If we pledge not to use our 2 wheeler once in a week, together we can prevent 140 tons of air pollution each year!