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## **Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini**

Reg. No. : 618 Bom/82, Trust Act Reg. No. F-7863 Bom/82  
80-G Certificate No. : DIT(E)MC/80G/1525/2006/2007-2008 valid upto 31.3.2010  
FCRA NO. : 083780667

### **Annual Report 2008-2009**

Established in 1982, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) had three clear objectives set before its eyes. They were Training, Enlightenment and Research. The year under report, 2008-09 marks the onward march of RMP in pursuance of these objectives, with the larger goal of enriching the public life by motivating the activist as well as the citizenry to recognise their social responsibilities.

Throughout the year, several innovatively conceived and thoughtfully implemented training programmes were conducted in our Knowledge Excellence Centre, at Keshav Srushti, Uttan, Bhayander. Through these capacity building initiatives we tried to cater to voluntary organisations, social and political workers and those working in educational and co-operative sectors.

Today, we are overwhelmed by a flood of information from diverse sources. But rational and meaningful dialogue in the public space is conspicuously scarce. In addition to its training programmes, the RMP also organised some innovative awareness-creation programmes in the year under review. As a part of these programmes, experts presented their learned views on various issues of national and international importance, like the problem of water scarcity in urban areas, the Nagar Raj Bill, advocating civic participation in urban development, the infamous Satyam scam, increasing incidence of illegal infiltration into Indian territory, rising terrorism and the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Through such programmes, the Prabodhini continued its tradition of intellectual inquiry into all sorts of contemporary issues.

Some programmes and schemes that brought in wider recognition to the RMP-Mission were, Institution Building Support Scheme (IBSS), a novel experiment in enhancing the capabilities of voluntary organisations; “Annadata Sukhi Bhava”, a project to support families affected by incidence of farmers’ suicides; ‘Voluntary Service Meet’, a conference for Voluntary Organisations and ‘Janatantra-2009’, a drive to create a class of enlightened voters.

Various Programmes in 2008-09 : *At a glance*

Sr. No.	Description	Number of Programmes	Number of Participants
1.	Training	22	1160
2.	Public Awakening	09	1375
3.	Others	07	2065
	Total	38	4600

Training Programmes : *At a glance*

Sr. No.	Sector	Number of Programmes	Number of Participants	
			Men	Women
1.	Political	10	488	102
2.	Education	3	132	51
3.	Social	7	232	56
4.	Co-operative	2	88	11
	Total	22	940	220

**1. Noteworthy Events**

**1.1 National Seminar on War on Terrorism**

Terrorism is assuming grave proportions today, at the national as well as international levels. With a view to reviewing the changing face of terrorism in India, as also

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discussing the need for a stringent legal framework to deal with terrorism effectively, RMP organised a day-long National Seminar on the War on Terrorism in the National capital (New Delhi) on October 4, 2008. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister L. K. Advani inaugurated this Seminar and delivered the key-note address. This Seminar was mainly a brain-storming session that involved knowledgeable persons across the ideologies. Experts on issues like defence and internal security, experienced govt. officials, ex-civil servants, political analysts, journalists, activists associated with voluntary organisations as well as educationists and opinion leaders and above all family members of the victims of terrorism participated in this day-long seminar.

The speakers were B. Raman, Ex official of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW); Justice S. R. Nayak, Chairman of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission; Prakash Singh, former Chief of Border Security Force; Rakesh Asthana, Police Commissioner (Vadodara); Sundari Pisupati, Constitutional Expert (Hyderabad). These eminent speakers delivered insightful and incisive talks on the subject. Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Lt. General (Rtd.) S. K. Sinha, delivered a speech at the concluding session of the conference. The Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Gopinath Munde, was the chairperson of the conference. The conference had 85 participants from all over India.

## **1.2 Tackling Terror**

Against the backdrop of the Mumbai Terror Attack of 26 November, 2008, a Symposium on Dealing with Terror, was organised at Nagpur on 26.12.2008, primarily to discuss ways and means of tackling terror effectively. Lt. General (Rtd.) Vinayak Patankar, an acclaimed authority on terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and former Additional Commissioner of Police (Maharashtra); Vasant Deshmukh, known for his upright and uncompromising stand on policy issues, were the chief speakers at this seminar. Gopinath Munde, Chairman of the RMP,

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presided over this function. Maharashtra BJP President Nitin Gadkari and many dignitaries from Nagpur also attended the event.

### **1.3 Janatantra-2009**

In recent years, the institutions of democracy, elections, political leaders and people's representatives, have become the targets of scorn in India. This decline in credibility can be attributed not only to the behaviour and actions of the political parties and political leadership, but also to the deliberate efforts of some entities to incite and encourage this distrust. As a result, the common voter is getting increasingly disillusioned and alienated from the democratic process. On this backdrop, RMP conducted a pro-active programme called 'Janatantra-2009', with a view to creating awareness among the voters, in the context of the 15th Lok Sabha elections to be held during April-May 2009. This programme took place on 7 and 8 March 2009, at the Raja Shivaji Vidyalaya Complex at Dadar.

The programme comprised three activities. Firstly, the whole range of Party Literature published by political parties in Maharashtra — including manifestos, journals and monographs on policy and programme issues — during the last fifty years was put on display in a unique exhibition. Besides, discussion sessions on Issues before the Election, involving Party leaders were conducted. Also, a public function to mark the release of two RMP publications was also held. Janatantra-2009 was jointly inaugurated by the Resident Editor of Loksatta daily, Sudhir Jogalekar and Nikhil Wagle of television Channel IBN Lokmat. Jogalekar, Wagle and Prof. M. M. Pendse presented their views on the subject "The role of political parties in shaping an enlightened public opinion." A presentation on "The story of political cartoons" by renowned cartoonist Vikas Sabnis added colour to the event.

Representatives of various political parties participated in panel discussions held as a part of Janatantra-2009. Vinod

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Tawade of the BJP, Subhash Desai of the Shiv Sena, Anant Gadgil of the Congress, Ratnakar Mahajan of the Nationalist Congress Party, Ajit Abhyankar of the Communist Party and Shirish Parkar of the MNS presented the views and positions of their respective parties. Members of the audience raised queries and sought clarification on issues regarding the official party positions of different political parties on various issues. These sessions were hosted by journalists Ravindra Panchal and Mrinalini Nanivadekar.

The books 'Al Qaeda', authored by veteran journalist Sudhakar Raje, and "War on Terrorism", published by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, were released at the concluding session of Janatantra-2009 at the hands of former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Lt. General (Retd.) S. K. Sinha. Vice-Chairman of RMP Prof. Balasaheb Apte presided over this function.

#### **1.4 National Convention of Voluntary Organisations**

In a bid to assess the multiple challenges facing Voluntary Service Organisations in India, a Voluntary Service Meet was organised this year. This is the first time that such an event has taken place. This meet was held on June 2nd and 3, 2008 at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini. Senior Social worker and Founder of AFARM, Pune, Dr. Mukund Ghare, inaugurated the meet. In his speech, he emphasised that while carrying out social service, it is important to undertake self-evaluation and consistent exploration of new paths. He also told the participants that to ensure long term and effective results from their labour, it was necessary to adopt long term vision, adherence to value systems, continued perseverance and unity.

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Director General, RMP, delivered the keynote address of the Voluntary Service Meet. In group discussions held in the course of the convention, representatives of participating organisations expressed their views on goal-setting for voluntary organisations,

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organisational difficulties, management, documentation, publicity and mutual co-operation between voluntary organisations. In the session on 'Innovative Experiments in Voluntary Service', the special experiments carried out by some voluntary organisations and the related experiences were presented to the participants. There was also a session discussing Corporate Social Responsibility.

Participating organisations included mainly only those working for the causes of Rural Development, Empowerment of Women and Child Welfare, Environmental issues, Water Management, Tribal Development and Health. 152 participants from 84 voluntary organisations from 13 States across India namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Delhi and Goa — attended this first-of-its-type convention. Many eminent personalities from the field of voluntary service graced the two-day convention. They included Kripaprasad Singh and Harsh Chouhan of the Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, Jagatprasad Nadda, Forest Resources minister of Himachal Pradesh, Nirmala Sitaraman, veteran social worker, Lalitha Kumarmangalam former member of National Commission for Women and Mrudula Sinha, former President of the National Social Welfare Board (CSWB). Ashok Goel of the Essel Group and Sanjay Bapat, founder of the portal IndianNGOs.Com.

In the concluding session, citations were presented to industrialists and business persons in recognition of their contribution to social causes while they simultaneously carried out their professional responsibilities in the corporate sector. Shriram Dandekar accepted this honour on behalf of Subhash Dandekar of Camlin Industries. Deepak Ghaisas of I-Flex Solutions, Suresh Havare of Havare Builders, Ashaben Shroff of Excel Industries and Suresh Bharvani of Jetking were the other dignitaries who were felicitated on this occasion. Mukundrao Chitale, renowned C.A. and President of Keshav Shrushti, delivered the valedictory speech. During the valedictory

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session a Souvenir was released, especially printed & published for this occasion.

**1.5 National Training Programme for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Office bearers of Municipal Corporations.**

The central training cell of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, jointly organised a national training programme for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Municipal Office Bearers on 23 and 24 September 2008. This session was inaugurated by the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Rajnath Singh. 42 delegates (33 men and 9 women) attended this programme. Former cabinet minister Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi; BJP Organising Secretary Ram Lal; Vice-Chairman of the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Prof. Balasaheb Apte; BJP State President of Maharashtra Nitin Gadkari; as well as other esteemed and experienced persons like Ashok Kale, Nilesh Kulkarni, Dilip Karmarkar, Chandrakant Mane and others conducted various sessions for the participating delegates. The programme was concluded with a speech by Umashankar Gupta, former Mayor of Bhopal and Convenor of the Urban Authorities' Cell of the BJP.

**1.6 'Certificate Course in Hindutva' (An introduction) :**

Rambhau Mhalgi Prahodhini and Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan collaborated to organise a unique course called 'Certificate Course in Hindutva' (introductory). This course was conducted at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of the RMP on November 7, 8 and 9, 2008. This is the first such Study Programme of its kind. Fiftysix persons (53 men and 3 women) from 18 institutions across 14 districts, attended this course.

The objective of this course was to introduce Hindutva to young activists who wish to study the Hindutva nationalist movement from a political perspective, in the wider context of nationalism at the global level. The course also aimed at developing the right perspective about the ideology as also encouraging studious activists,

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involved in the Hindutva movement. Veteran thinker and Scholar of Hindu Studies, J. D. Jogalekar inaugurated this programme. In his speech, he stressed the need for setting up an institutional structure for the study of Nationalism.

The list of topics covered in this study programme included Emergence and Progress of Nationalism, Nationalism and Internationalism, Established scholarship on Nationalism, the development of Nationalism in the Indian subcontinent, Hindutva in the present day context, Congress-engineered Hindi Nationalism, Indian Communists and the role of Muslim and Christian communities in the pre-independence era, etc. Veteran thinker Dr. Ashok Modak was the Course Director for this study programme. The long list of resource persons for this programme included Prof. M. M. Pendse, senior journalist Dilip Karambelkar, Prof. Avinash Kolhe, Dr. Atmaram Kulkarni, Adv. Kishore Javale, Anand Hardikar, Aravind Bal, Dr. Uttara Sahasrabuddhe and Vinay Sahasrabuddhe. The course was concluded with the speech by the Vice-Chairman of RMP and President of the Savarkar Darshan Pratisthan, Prof. Balasaheb Apte.

## **2. Other Notable Activities**

### **2.1 Rambhau Mhalgi Memorial Lecture :**

At Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, we have established an Annual Lecture on a topical subject of national importance, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Late Rambhau Mhalgi. This lecture is held primarily in the metro cities of Maharashtra, a different city each year. This year, the 9th Rambhau Mhalgi Memorial Lecture was held in Kalyan on 5 July, 2008. Senior RSS functionary Indresh Kumar, presented an informative lecture on 'The Perils of Infiltration'. Veteran RSS office bearer of the organisation's local unit Madhukarrao Chakradeo, presided over the programme. Citizens from Kalyan and Dombivali attended the lecture in large numbers.

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## **2.2 Swatantryaveer Savarkar Memorial Inter-collegiate Debating Competition :**

This was the fifth year of the Inter-collegiate debating competition jointly instituted by RMP and Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan. Student-participants in this competition debated the vexed issue of 'Repealing article 370 as a pre-requisite of stopping Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir effectively'. This debating competition was held at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of Prabodhini, on 31 August 2008. A total of 14 teams representing colleges and 6 individuals (total of 34) participated in this competition. The competition was inaugurated by senior pleader and a legal luminary Adv. Ganesh Sovani. The panel of judges included journalist Sucheta Karmarkar, Prof. Avinash Kolhe and Adv. Ganesh Sovani. The prestigious Veer Savarkar Trophy for best team performance was won by L.S.V. High School, Pune. Veteran journalist Mujaffar Hussain was the chief guest at the prize distribution function. The winning participants were awarded trophies, certificates, and cash prizes and were gifted books highlighting the life and thoughts of Veer Savarkar. Rekha Mahajan, member of the managing committee of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, was specially present at this occasion.

## **2.3 Certificate Course for Political Party Workers : Advanced Course**

RMP carries out the task of training people's representatives and political workers. Many political activists of various political parties, and from different hierarchical levels, have received training at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of the Prabodhini. On the request of senior BJP leaders from Maharashtra, a comprehensive '*Certificate Course for Political Party Workers : (Advanced Level)*' was held from 3 to 7 January, 2009. Madhav Bhandari, BJP spokesperson Maharashtra State, inaugurated the course. 57 workers from 15 districts participated in this course. The twin objectives with which this training course was planned included informing the party workers about the philosophical ideology, the intellectual tradition and

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institutional structure of the party and training them to acquire leadership skills. Those who acted as resource persons included Ram Naik, Jayant Sahasrabuddhe, Abasaheb Patwari, Sunil Karjatkar, Arun Karmarkar, Gopal Shetty, Dr. Rajendra Phadke, Lakhan Bhatwal, Mandar Bharde, Atul Bhatkhalkar, Vinay Natu, Milind Betavadkar and Milind Arolkar. The course was concluded with an address by Ravindra Bhusari, Senior functionary and zonal *pracharak* of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

#### **2.4 Pramod Mahajan : Leader with a Vision — Book Launch at Ambajogai**

On the occasion of the second Death Anniversary of RMP's former Chairman and mentor, late Pramod Mahajan, a book titled 'Pramod Mahajan : Leader with a Vision' was launched on 16th May, 2008, at a grand function held at Ambajogai, a city that shaped late Mahajan's social activism as a young student. The book throws light on the various facets of the deceased leader's personality. This was the translated version of the original book, published in English. (Pramod Mahajan : Leader with a Vision) an year ago. The book was published at the hands of ex-speaker of the Lok Sabha and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi. RMP's Chairman and ex-deputy CM of Maharashtra Gopinath Munde presided over the function. RMP Managing Committee member Rekha Mahajan also graced the occasion. A huge gathering of Mahajan's admirers, mostly from Ambajogai where he spent his formative years, attended the function. The function was held at the Adyakavi Mukundraj Cultural Auditorium in the city of Ambajogai.

#### **2.5 Vasant Patwardhan Memorial Essay Competition :**

The 'Vasant Patwardhan Memorial Essay Competition' was held for the students of Vanavasi (Tribal) High Schools of Thane district on the occasion of the second death anniversary of the former RMP Chairman, late Vasantrao Patwardhan. A total of 42 students from seven

high schools participated in the competition. Prof. Suvarna Raval and Dinanath Champanerkar judged the essays. The prize distribution ceremony for this competition was held in Vikramgad on 22nd Sept. 2008. Adv. Chintaman Vanaga, Rekha Majahan, Satish Marathe of Pragati Pratishthan and Sunanda Patwardhan besides Ravindra Sathe, RMP's Executive Director, graced the occasion.

### 3. Training

All the special and innovative training programmes conducted by the RMP have been elaborately mentioned earlier in the report. The details of the other training programmes are as follows :

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Place	Participants
1.	04-05 April, 2008	BJP — Daman-Diu-Dadra-Nagar Haveli Party Workers' Training Programme	Daman	37
2.	26-27 April, 2008	BJP — Goa, Mahila Morcha, Party Workers' Training Camp	Goa	84
3.	13-14 May, 2008	BJP — Kurudh, Dist. Dhamtari, Chhatisgarh, Party Workers' Training Camp	Knowledge Excellence Centre	55
4.	19-20 July, 2008	BJP — Solapur Dist. Party Workers' Training Programme	Solapur	63
5.	26-27 July 2008	BJP — Goa Party Workers' Training Camp	Panaji	60
6.	18 Nov., 2008	BJP — Sindhudurg District, Party Workers' Training Camp	Sindhudurg, Kankavli	72

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Place	Participants
7.	3-4 Nov., 2008	BJP — Sindhudurg, Training Camp for members of Gram Panchayats.	Kankavli	57
8.	28 Feb.-1 Mar., 2009	BJP — Kolhapur District Office Bearers' Training	Panhala	63

### 3.1 For Political Activists

#### Resource Persons :

Senior party functionaries including Manohar Parrikar, Omprakash Dhankad, Bhaurao Deshmukh, Sanjay Kelkar, Jayaprakash Thakur, Kiran Maheshwari, Rajendra Arlekar, Govind Parvatkar, Shilpa Patwardhan, Shrikant Bharatiya, Shriram Patwardhan, Sumant Ghaisas, Devendra Fadnavis, Keshav Upadhye, Ramesh Savant, Vilas Hadkar, Ajay Kulkarni, Praful Joshi and Ujjwal Keskar.

### 3.2 Training for the Education Sector

Following training programmes were held under the 'Centre for Institution Building and Leadership Studies', mainly for the education sector.

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Place	Participants
1.	19-20 April, 2008	Management Development Programme (MDP) for Maharashtra Shikshan Sanstha	Knowledge Excellence Centre	24
2.	09-10 June, 2008	Teachers' Training for Asmita Vidyalaya, Jogeshwari	Knowledge Excellence Centre	36
3.	09-10 Jan., 2009	MDP for admin staff of Maharashtra Education Society's colleges in Pune	Pune	123

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**Resource Persons :**

Late Swati Khandkar, as well as Dr. Aruna Kaulgud, Bhaskar Prabhu, Chandrashekhar Vaze, P. G. Kulkarni, Vivek Ponkshe, Surendra Vajpayee, Surendra Tanna, Suhasini Kulkarni, Seema Sheikh, Anupama Desai, Ravindra Vanjarvadkar, Shraddha Walimbe and S. S. Umrani.

**3.3. Voluntary Sector**

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Place	Participants
1.	30 Aug., 2008	Workshop on Public Speaking	Knowledge Excellence Centre	21
2.	27-28 Sept., 2008	Publicity, Promotion and Printing Techniques — Training Programme	Knowledge Excellence Centre	22
3.	11-12 Oct., 2008	Workshop on Event Management	Knowledge Excellence Centre	34
4.	24-25 Jan., 2009	Training Programme on Public Speaking and Communication Skills	Knowledge Excellence Centre	42
5.	14-15 March, 2009	Training Workshop for activists of Samata Parishad, Mumbai	Knowledge Excellence Centre	50
6.	28-29 March, 2009	Training Programme for Office Secretaries & Treasurers of voluntary organisations	Knowledge Excellence Centre	64

**Resource Persons :**

Senior journalists Milind Kokje and Yuvraj Mohite, theatre personality Pramod Pawar, as also Atul Bhatkhalkar, Jyoti Ambekar, Raghuvveer Kulkarni, Prakash Khandge, Jayesh Joshi, Vidyadhar Nimkar, Ravindra Sathe, Milind Limaye, Ratnakar Patil, Shrirang Godbole,

Meena Vaishampayan, Deepa Atre, Rajendra Patankar, Dada Idate, Sharadmani Marathe, Vivek Atre, Chandrashekhkar Vaze and Sameer Jogalekar.

### 3.4 Co-operative Sector

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Place	Participants
1.	13-14 Dec., 2008	Solapur Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd. — Training Programme for Branch Managers, Junior Officers and Senior Clerks	Solapur	80
2.	27-28 Dec., 2008	Shree Kulaswami Co-op. Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai, Management Development Programme	Knowledge Excellence Centre	19

#### Resource Persons :

RMP managing committee member Arvind Rege, Anant Joshi, Abhay Kamat and Ratnakar Gavaskar.

### 3.5 Study Circles

For the last several years, we have been conducting study circles namely Thursday Themes on every second Thursday on monthly basis. This year, due to reconstruction work at Chanchal Smruti (RMP HQ) as Thursday themes could not be held regularly, three study circles were held. Their details are as follows :

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme	Faculty	Participants
1.	20 Jan., 2009	Satyam Scandal	Mukund Chitale	19
2.	22 Jan., 2009	The Israel-Hamas Conflict	John Perry	10
3.	26 Feb., 2009	The Nagar Raj Bill — Citizens' Participation in Urban Development	Adv. Ashish Shelar	15

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#### **4. Research**

The thesis '*Political Parties as Victims of Populism and Electoral Compulsions : A quest for Systemic Solutions (with special reference to India)*', written by the Director General of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, was accepted by the Mumbai University, and a Ph.D. was awarded to him. Sahasrabuddhe had conducted the research required for the thesis while simultaneously attending to his responsibilities as leader of the Prabodhini. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe completed his thesis under the guidance of Senior Professor of Political Science and Head of Department at the SIES College Dr. Manisha Tikekar.

#### **5. Other Notable events**

##### **5.1 Prabodhini Day :**

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini was established officially on 19 October 1982. This year, on that Foundation Day, a blood donation camp was organised. 35 persons donated blood at this camp, organised with the assistance of the Late Vamanrao Oak Blood Bank, Thane.

##### **5.2 Late Pramod Mahajan Memorial Day :**

On the occasion of the memorial day of late Pramod Mahajan, a blood donation camp was organised at Bhayandar on 3rd May 2008. The Camp was inaugurated by the Mayor of the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation, Narendra Mehta. Eminent personalities like Rohidas Patil, Arvind Rege and Manisha Choudhary were present for the occasion. 39 persons donated blood at this camp.

##### **5.3 Poetic celebrations on Republic Day '*Kutumb Ranglai Kavyat*'**

As is the custom every year, on 26 January 2009, Republic Day was celebrated at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of the Prabodhini by hoisting the national flag and offering a prayer to Bharat Mata. The flag was hoisted

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by Rekha Mahajan, member of the Managing Committee of the Prabodhini. On this occasion, Visubhau Bapat presented a cultural programme called '*Kutumb Ranglai Kavyat*', based on contemporary and folk poetry.

#### **5.4 Women's Reservation Bill : Presentation before a joint parliamentary committee**

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini has actively associated itself with the proposed Women's Reservation Bill for many years. It had made a representation regarding the same in 1997 to the Joint select Committee of the parliament that was considering the bill at that time. This year, too, on our request, the Prabodhini was asked to make a presentation before the Joint Select Committee of the parliament examining the provisions of the proposed bill. The hearing took place on 28 June, 2008 in Mumbai. Dr. Medha Nanivadekar and Vinay Sahasrabuddhe presented the Prabodhini's View Point through a memorandum submitted and explained its details to the committee.

### **6. Other initiatives of the Prabodhini**

#### **6.1 Centre for Reference, Information and Documentation**

This Centre operates from RMP's registered office at Chanchal Smruti, Wadala, Mumbai. Currently, 52 members – 29 individuals, 5 educational institutions, 11 banks and 7 social organisations – avail of our reference service. Through this Centre, we have been providing neatly compiled reference material, mostly in the form of thoughtfully selected clippings from newspapers and periodicals from across the world, on a fortnightly basis. The initiative taken by the Centre to present this material in a more sophisticated form, has resulted in increased membership this year. Reference-wise valuable clippings on diverse subjects, archived since 1990, are available in files maintained and updated at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of the Prabodhini.

#### **6.2 Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Library**

Our Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Library is now in its 14th

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year. This library was established as an integral part of RMP and it operates from both, our Registered Office as well as RMP - KEC at Uttan. Over the years it has become a source of valuable study and research material for social and political activists. This library is also a registered public library and was awarded the grade 'Public Library - B, Other' in 2001-02 by the Maharashtra Government.

In this financial year, the collection of the library grew by 590 books to reach a figure of 10,590. Five hundred rare publications like party manifestos published by various political parties of India since their inception, and material on resolutions and official positions of various political parties on national issues have also been added to the library. Besides these, audio and video recordings and CDs are also available in the Library. The library, like in the past, organised book exhibitions on diverse subjects like Human Rights, Rural development, Water issues and Education, etc. Under Researcher-in-Residence Fellowship Scheme, many scholars like Dr. Vijay Deo, Swami Vidnyananand, Prof. Janhavi Bedekar, Prof. Subhash Lohe, John Perry, have availed of the library facility during the year. The library also benefitted from the books gifted to the library by Messrs. Subodh Wagle, Ram Kulkarni, Vasant Nanivadekar, Prabhakar Thosar and other eminent personalities and we are grateful to all of them.

### **6.3 Centre for Development, Planning and Research (CDPR), Pune**

Professionally conducted social surveys and actual observation on the field are important features of projects undertaken by the CDPR of the Prabodhini. The CDPR, which is based in Pune, carried out the following important projects in this accounting year :

#### ***6.3.1. A survey of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other Backward Castes in the State of Goa :***

This survey is undertaken on behalf of the Goa State

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Commission for Backward Castes and Tribes. The project involves a comprehensive study of all households in Goa, and determination of the exact number of households that belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Caste categories. The survey will also detail the economic and social parameters of households that have been identified as belonging to these categories. It is expected that three lakh households will be studied under this project, the biggest project undertaken by the CDPR to date. Seventy five per cent of the work on this ongoing project has been completed in this accounting year, with the able assistance of local surveyors.

*6.3.2. Voters Profile : Goa*

In this ongoing project, pertinent information regarding every voter in Goa will be collected. This project is being conducted on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Goa Pradesh), with the assistance of local BJP activists. Boothwise information is being compiled on voters in each Vidhan Sabha constituency. A comprehensive computerised database of this information is also being prepared simultaneously.

*6.3.3. Dombivali Urban Co-operative Bank, Dombivali :*

The Centre has prepared a market survey and feasibility report for the Dombivali Urban Co-operative Bank, Dombivali, as per the guidelines laid down by the RBI, in order to facilitate the opening of new branches in the urban centres of Chiplun, Khopoli and Sinnar. Reports were prepared for six such possible Centres.

*6.3.4. Basic Survey of eight villages lying in the Mining Industrial Belt — Orissa*

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility effort, Sesa Goa, a leading mining company, has decided to implement a Community Development Project in eight villages in the vicinity of their Thakurani Mines in Orissa. The CDPR has drawn up a blueprint for development of eight villages near Barbil town, in the district of Kenjurgadh (Orissa), to serve as a guideline for the

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project. This development plan for this project, to be spread out over three years, was prepared after various socio-economic parameters of 750 families in the area had been thoroughly studied. The report has been submitted to Sesa Goa Limited.

#### *6.3.5. CASP-PLAN Project :*

In order to determine the objectives of the development programmes to be implemented in Mawal Taluka in Pune region by the Community and Sponsorship Programme (CASP-PLAN) in the near future, the Centre undertook a survey to examine the changing needs in the project area. Twenty representative villages were chosen for the study. Rising urbanisation, sale of agricultural land for large housing projects as well as public and private industrial projects, the young generation's neglect of — or disinterest in — agricultural activities, manpower requirements of the new industries set up in the region and the necessary measures for promoting agriculture, were the factors that were studied. On the basis of their findings, recommendations were made to CASP-PLAN regarding the modifications required in their development plans. This report was prepared and presented to CASP-PLAN in this accounting year.

#### **6.4 Knowledge Excellence Centre (RMP-KEC)**

As in the past, this year too, RMP's training facility at Uttan, known as Knowledge Excellence Centre continued to attract several corporate houses. In 2008-09, 88 programmes by 39 corporate entities were held at the Prabodhini's complex. Prominent companies that held their training events at the KEC include : Nagarjun Constructions, E for Development, Mahindra First Choice Wheels Ltd., The Great Eastern Shipping Co., Educom Solutions Ltd., etc. Besides these new companies, Health-related Salaam Bombay, Culture-related Bharat Vikas Parishad, Economics-related Arthakranti Pratisthan, Co-operative sector-related Shivsahyadri Co-operative Bank and similar such institutions availed of the facilities of the complex for training purposes. The complex was utilised

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for training by these organisations for 227 days. Dignitaries including corporate leaders and Human resources experts like Veena Patil, Dr. Rajendra Barve, Amit Patel, Bhushan Lavande, Ajay Chopra, Suketu Shah, and P. D. Kelkar, visited the complex and expressed their appreciation for the facilities and services provided at the Prabodhini's Complex.

Noted Management Expert, Sharu Rangnekar visited the Knowledge Excellence Centre on June 29, 2009. During his visit, he delivered a lecture on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), before a select group of individuals from corporate and voluntary sector.

During the year under report, Arvind Rege, Senior Member of Managing Committee of RMP, conducted Management Development Programmes (MDPs) on October 15 and 16, 2009, for Branch Managers and Assistant Branch Managers of Janseva Sahakari Bank, Borivli, under the auspices of RMP's Training in Co-operation Cell.

An Orientation Programme for Post-Graduate Women Students of Psychology, of S.N.D.T. University, was also organised on March 16 and 17, 2009, at which Arvind Rege conducted sessions on soft skills required for making a career in personal management.

#### **6.5 Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini — International Cell (RMP International)**

⇒ The Director General of the Prabodhini, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, visited the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation to explore possibilities for expanding activities of the international cell of the RMP in this financial year. Sahasrabuddhe held discussions with Christina Isabel Legor of Alliance of Civilisations, Programme Officer of the UN Democratic Forum, John Mary Kautzaya of the Public Administration and Development Management Department and others. At these meetings, he explored how the Prabodhini, in its capacity as the

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special advisory voluntary organisation to the UN, could carry out more work in association with the UN.

- ⇒ Sahasrabuddhe also visited Toronto, Canada, prior to his visit to New York, as an invitee to the International Conference on Democracy, organised by the Transformative Education Centre of the University of Toronto during 16-18 October 2008. At this Conference, Sahasrabuddhe presented a paper related to the Membership of National Political Parties. Sahasrabuddhe later travelled to Houston and Washington and met officials of the India Development Relief fund and Sewa International.
- ⇒ The Asia Media Forum had organised an international conference on 'Media in the times of crisis' at Bangkok during 24-27 March 2009. 76 representatives from 11 Asian countries attended this conference. Ravindra Sathe, Executive Director of the Prabodhini, participated in the conference upon the invitation of the organisers.
- ⇒ Dr. Mukul Asher of the National University of Singapore visited the Knowledge Excellence Centre of Prabodhini on 24 April 2008. He delivered a lecture on International Perspectives.
- ⇒ IT Professional Niyanta Deshpande (an expert in Japanese language) presented an analysis of Indo-Japan relations on 7 January 2009, before a select group of individuals from local area.

#### **6.6 Centre for Human Rights Studies and Awareness (CHRSA)**

As has been reported earlier, RMP's CHRSA had prepared a report namely, 'Confrontation between Muslim miscreants and Police in Bhiwandi - 2006 : A Report' on the basis of an investigation by the Human Rights Study Centre. At present, on our plea, this report is being heard at the Maharashtra Human Rights

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Commission. Milind Arolkar, Exexutive Officer (Research & Documentation) is representing RMP at this hearing.

### **6.7 Vilasrao Salunkhe Chair**

The Vilasrao Salunkhe Chair organises awareness and training programmes related to Water conservation and water management, in addition to research activities. As a part of this activity, a presentation was made on the subject 'Water Scarcity in the Thane Urban District Area' by Maharashtra Water Authority executive Secretary, Sanjay Dahasahasra. A permanent exhibit on 'Water Resources' in the Library of the Prabodhini was also inaugurated by him on this occasion. Corporators, journalists and researchers on water-related issues participated in this programme.

## **7 Projects Division :**

### **7.1 Institution Building Support Scheme (IBSS) : Concluding session of first level.**

The first cycle of the Institution Building Support Scheme (IBSS), instituted with the objective of enhancing the capabilities of voluntary organisations, came to a conclusion with the Valedictory Function on 15 December 2008, held at the auditorium of S. M. Joshi Foundation, Pune. At this session, voluntary organisations (VOs) which were selected for participation in this first cycle were awarded certificates of successful participation in this programme. The names of these VOs are : Bhagirath Gramvikas Pratishthan (Sindhudurg), Matabalak Utkarsha Pratishthan (Sangola), Keshav Seva Sadhana (Goa), Udyog Vardhini (Solapur), Janadhar Sewabhavi Sanstha (Latur).

The certificates were presented at the hands of Srinarayan Chandak of the US-based India Development Relief Fund, our principal fund giver. Heads of all these participating organisations affirmed that the training had been very beneficial for their growth perspective. Vivek Atre, our principal consultant, Sunil Mishra, our advisor on web related matters and young documentary maker Akshay

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Bapat were felicitated on this occasion. D. S. Kulkarni, a prominent building construction professional in Pune, was the chief guest on this occasion. The function was chaired by Dr. Ashok Kukade, senior RSS functionary. Many eminent persons from the political and public sphere were present for the function.

## **7.2 Annadata Sukhi Bhava !**

Annadata Sukhi Bhava is an innovative programme launched in Vidarbha in financial year 2007-08 to provide financial support to the families affected by farmers' suicides. Under this, widows of the deceased farmers are given aid amounting to Rs. 15,000 under the Family Assistance Scheme, a part of this project. Under the Student Mentorship Scheme, school going kids in such families where the husband has committed suicide, financial assistance of Rs. 3000 is provided annually; for five years — mainly to ensure that the school boy/girl does not drop out.

By the end of April 2008, assistance has been provided to 250 women from 36 talukas (6 districts), and 35 students from 16 talukas (4 districts). It was decided that the aid to the students should not be limited to financial assistance only and the students should also be provided assistance in learning and all round development. To that end, activists were appointed as mentors to take up this responsibility. Seven mentors, each responsible for five students, have already started working for this purpose.

On August 9, 2008, a function was organised at Yeotmal at which, BJP Maharashtra State President Nitin Gadkari handed over cheques to 38 women. Local MLA Madan Yerawar, Dinkar Pande and Vinay Sahasrabuddhe were also present at the Function.

On the eve of Deepavali, on October 25, 2008, Devendra Fadnavis, Member, Managing Committee of RMP, visited Datoda village in Kalamb Taluka and handed over Bhaabeej Gifts. (Festival Gifts) to 6 women as a part of this project.

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## **8. Other Activities**

### **8.1 Social Science Gathering**

Pradnya Pravaha is an organisation that seeks to promote intellectualism in multiple ways. Under the aegis of Pradnya Pravaha and in association with the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, the 'Social Science Meet' was organised on 10 and 11 May, 2008. The event saw participation by 62 scholars belonging to the social studies (58 men and 4 women) from 13 States across India. The keynote address at this meet was delivered by veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh functionary, Dr. Bajaranglal Gupta. The introductory speech was given by Prof. Krishna Bhat of Pradnya Pravaha. Various themes were discussed on this occasion, including Social Science — the current scenario, Social Science — the Indian Perspective and Indianisation of Social Science. The gathering concluded with the valedictory address by the Joint General Secretary of the RSS, Suresh Soni.

### **8.2 Building in-house capacities.**

A four-stage training programme was organised for the employees of the Prabodhini. Four one-day sessions were held in February, March, April and June respectively, handling different subjects like Skill enhancement, Presentation, Communication Skills, and Inter-Personal Relations. Late Swati Khandkar was the trainer for all the four sessions.

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#### **Photos on the front cover**

*Top Photo :*

At Prabodhini's National Seminar on War on Terrorism held in Delhi in October 2008, RMP Chairman Gopinath Munde giving Presidential remarks. Others seen from left are : Rajiv Pratap Rudi, Lt. Gen. S. K. Sinha and Lal Krishna Advani.

*Bottom Photo :*

Prof. Bal Apte, Vice-Chairman, RMP, lighting the traditional lamp to mark inauguration of National Workshop of Mayors and Deputy Mayors, while BJP Chief Rajnath Singh looks on. Rekha Mahajan is seen on extreme left.