**PRESS RELEASE**

**25 JANUARY 2016**

**PMC Launches ‘Our Pune Our Budget’ website**

The municipal budget, like government budgets at all levels, is a document that concerns all citizens. It is not merely a statement of revenues and expenditures of the local body, but a policy document that affects the well-being of people. The direction of the city’s progress is reflected in the decisions about investments in different types of infrastructure and services.

The PMC is taking up an initiative to make the municipal budget and budgeting process more responsive to citizens’ needs, easier to understand and participative. The first step is to make the budget statement easily available to citizens.

The PMC is launching the website [www.OurPuneOurBudget.in](http://www.OurPuneOurBudget.in) along with the presentation of the budget proposal for2016-17 by the Municipal Commissioner.

The website provides

* Links to the budget statement for reference and analysis by citizens and interested organizations
* Prabhag Budget briefs with the list of works and budget allocations for each prabhag
* Prabhag Profiles based on the Ward Infrastructure, Services and Environment Information Base, prepared with the data available with PMC administration
* Interactive maps with information about each Prabhag

This initiative has been taken by PMC in partnership with Centre for Environment Education (CEE), a national institute and centre of excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Dr Ravikant Joshi, an expert in municipal finance, and former Chief Accounts Officer for Vadodara Municipal Corporation is guiding the initiative.

Municipal budget information in simplified formats will be provided in the coming days on this site, which will also be in Marathi. Apps for citizens, and especially students, to participate in social audits and infrastructure surveys would also soon be available on the site. Information collated though such interactive features can be used as an input for improvement of civic services. Such information can also be used by citizens and elected representatives for more meaningful suggestions in the annual participatory budget process.