



The information technology industry is a major contributor to the city's economy, with an estimated 8,000 job opportunities every year and an approximate annual turnover exceeding Rs 6,000 crore.

AND COLOUR.

Traffic tolls the bell for Pune

Traffic will be the death of Pune. I came to this city, wanting to escape the horrors of a congested and polluted Delhi. Eight years later, I find Pune heading in the same direction. From a pleasant, friendly place in which commuting was effortless, it is turning into a car-choked, lung-destroying nightmare.

There are just too many vehicles on the roads. Everyone and their aunt wants their own 2-wheelers and 4-wheelers, if possible one for each member of the family! Is it a wonder that traffic jams are now common? Or that Pune is now one of India's most polluted cities? Or that the incidence of respiratory ailments is shooting up?

We all curse this. But we do nothing. We don't seem to care enough for our health, and worse, for the health of younger generations growing up in this city. As parents, uncles and

aunts, should we not be screaming out to save their future?

The answers are there. Cities around the world such as Bogota have found solutions to traffic problems. A few of Pune's citizens, under the banner of the Pune Traffic and Transportation Forum, have pointed out that the biggest need is a good public transport system.

Improve the bus system, bring in other forms of mass transport. Encourage cycling by laying dedicated cycle tracks everywhere. Discourage private vehicles by heavily taxing their use

of roads.

How will this happen? One simple answer. Force Pune's corporators and senior bureaucrats to use public transport. Perhaps PMC commissioner Nitin Kareer, said to be sensitive to such issues, can make a start by insisting on travelling by bus. Then see how the situation improves dramatically!



Sudansand Goosse



The writer is one of the founding members of the Indian environmental action group, Kalpavriksh, started in 1979