

## The Renovation



Participants with Popatrao Pawar

By Sagar Agrawal

There are not so many villages in India that has made mark in the national map in terms of successful sustainable development. We SOGians were fortunate enough to visit the star villages in Maharashtra namely Nidhal Gram, Hivre Bazar and Ralegaon Sidhi. Now the success

stories of all of them are based on two major aspects, i.e. the leadership and watershed development in the area.

A leader is someone who serves the people selflessly. We could see the identical fundamentals of the leaders of these success stories. The protagonists here knew the root cause of the situation of their hamlet. All three namely Shri Chandrakant Dalvi, Shri Popat Rao Pawar and Shri Anna Hazare hail from complete diverse statures. They had the moral obligation towards their soil which made them initiate measures for the people and more importantly by the people themselves. There's quote, "Do not catch a fish for someone, teach him fishing". This is the contribution of the above personalities towards society

building. We saw how one of the unique concepts of watershed has been brought up in the villages. As rainfall is less in these areas, it is becoming one of the major problems of the farmers but people of these villages have

## FIELD VISITS

given one of the finest solution that how to maintain water level by different water conservation tactics and also with the help of the unique concept of water shed recharge and that too they have taken a task to recycle the water to heighten areas so as to maintain good ground water level.

Nidhal, a village of Satara district in Maharashtra has created its own identity by itself and become one of the model villages of Maharashtra. On 12:09:09 we visited this village to make out the secret. Firstly, the village high school Hanuman Vidyalyaya which has been named as the best school of the entire district and also is credited with a cent percent SSC result. The administration of the village was self-explanatory as in the functioning of the gram panchayat the

people have a consensus while choosing a candidate during panchayat elections.

Anna Hazare, the central character in the story had given 5 principles on which his total concept of model village is established are Nashabandi, Nashbandi, Shram daan, tree plantation and to stop animals to graze on

fertile lands. This village is entirely different from others I have ever seen. There was a school for education, a hostel having very good infrastructure and facilities. Plantation of fruits plant was nicely planned and implemented. Organic farming was one of the best examples of educated farming.

One of the most important things was that in this village women are also given equal importance as they handle the cultivation of fruit plants and their sale which gives them an income of Rs. 6 Laky per annum. This village has touched new heights in milk production which is about 3000 litres/day. So, it is very clear that for developing such a village people will have to come together having a vision to come together having a vision above individual interests.

## An MP's advice

By Kushal Anurag

On October 7, MITSOG had Rajya Sabha BJP MP Anil Dave as eminent visitor and delivered a lecture on 'Leadership and Politics'.

To become a leader, three things are necessary according to Dave. Firstly, a person should spend two days with Patwari (one who maintains land records). Secondly, spend a day at a police station and finally, spend a day at the collector's office.

Talking about perfection, Dave said it is a perfect balance of one's needs; spiritual, physical, and mental. He asked everyone to do at least one non-political work in life. According to him, there are three stages in leadership creation (raw

material should be good), construction (build up) and cremation (good approach makes good landing).

On team building, Dave said that allocation of work is very important and for making strategy, selection of words is very important. He highlighted three qualities of a good leader - lok bhasha (the leader should use the language of the people), lok bhoosha (the leader should dress up decently) and lok vyavahar (the leader should not ignore the ground-level activists).

Through his interactive sessions participants got to know the nuances of leadership and the hard realities of current political situation in India.

## US delegation charms MITSOG

By Pawan Kumar

The participants of MITSOG on November 9 interacted with young political leaders of the United States of America, a delegation of Council for Young American Leaders and gathered perspectives on international politics.

The session was very informative and interactive and it became was obvious that our country is going on the right track with the training process of governance and thereby increasing the quality of policy making.

With special emphasis on changing world order from unipolar to multipolar world and the change of American policies towards India,

It was great to clarify to the questions on their part which related to the biggest social issues

budding Indian leaders. Politicians with proper education and information are

games among themselves, but evade development issues.

Human behaviour reflects his work and it is factual in any field. Our efforts somewhat reflect our own persona which is usually unseen in Indian politicians. Our politicians should change the way they respond and react.

The best thing to learn from the delegates was the blend of idealistic and realistic approach that will foster the development of a society. The blend is the policy that should be ideal and also implemented to the best attainable extent. So with skilled legislative we can bring the transformation we are determined for.



Participants with American Delegates

concerning India and India's relations with US. This was followed by a talk by Poornima, a

indispensable today. What we lack in our country is the political will. The elected

## ATITHI SATKAR

participant of MITSOG on the challenges for the

representatives indulge in all possible blame-

## Towards better electoral process

By Arun Kumar

J.M. Lyngdoh, the former chief election commissioner visited our institution on 17th Nov. 2009 and had given an insight into the electoral processes and need for electoral reforms both through lecture followed by question and answer session.

He talked about the Election Commission

and its powers. He also talked about plenary power of the Election Commissioner that has been used for free and fair elections. He explained the role of money power in Indian politics and the state funding of elections. His view about state funding was that state can't prevent the use of extra money, for which an efficient mechanism is needed. He shared his experiences and problems he faced as an Election

Commissioner and also stated about the power of Election Commission in which it acts as super police force also. He sought for many electoral reforms and a report of National Commission on review of working of Indian Constitution, which suggested for introduction of List System instead of first past the post system. He reasserted the supremacy of the Chief Election Commissioner over the other two Election

Commissioners. He said that Election Commission's power to regulate election is unlimited, which is conferred to it by the written law of the land, the Constitution. The Participants got useful and detailed insights into the Election Commission's functioning, electoral process and need for electoral reforms.

## Get up and vote



Participants in Voting Awareness Programme

"Vote karo, Vote karo, Vote Karo ya, 49(O) karo" these lines from a street play performed by participants of MPG-05, resounded through the air, exhorting the citizens to exercise their right to vote. The play illustrated the importance of people's participation in the electoral process, saying that voting was the only way of ensuring good governance.

The street play was performed at three different locations including Big Bazaar, along with banners displaying slogans and distribution of pamphlets. The citizens were also enlightened regarding rule 49(O) which comes under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 of India. The voter needs to make an entry in the register of voters in Form 17A given by the presiding officer saying that he does not want to vote for any of the

candidates; however this goes against the principle of secret ballot, as the EVMs do not provide for casting a "no vote."

Additionally, this concept will be successful only when there is a provision for re-elections if 49(O) polls more than 50 per cent of the votes cast. The required reform awaits clearance in the Parliament from a long time

## VOTE PLAY

and powers that be, unsurprisingly, are reluctant to approve a law that will strengthen our democracy. The performances and the message in the street play were well received. Prathmesh Gokhale student of MIT's International School of Broadcasting and Journalism helped in directing the street play out of sheer passion to contribute to the noble cause. It was effort, pleasure, learning, experience, fun all rolled into one...