

# A toolkit for observing Pedestrians' Day, 2024

December 11: Annually celebrated as Pedestrians' Day in Pune

Save Pune Traffic Movement

<https://savepunetraffic.org>

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## Ideas for observing the Pedestrians' Day

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## Why observe the Pedestrians' Day?

Pedestrians are the most rightful users of road space. They don't need a license (i.e., a 'permission') to use roads! Yet, over the years, they have become the most vulnerable users. We observe various Days to create awareness about those issues, which leads to discussions, initiatives and projects that improve the situation. It is therefore natural that we observe a **Pedestrians' Day** too, so that it creates awareness about issues faced by pedestrians, leading to projects that make it safer and convenient to walk along and cross roads.

In 2021, SPTM approached Shri Murlidhar Mohol, the then Mayor of Pune, and requested him, as the first citizen of Pune, to announce 11th December as Pune's annual Pedestrians' Day. Thus, Pune became the first city (and the only city so far) in India to observe a Pedestrians' Day.

The Mayor represents the entire city, not just the Municipal Corporation. The Pedestrians' Day is not only for the Pune Municipal Corporation. Therefore, it is important for citizens to observe the Pedestrians' Day every year, and in increasing numbers.

This toolkit is put together for all those who would like to observe the Pedestrian Day in their own little way, which will help improve urban walking. You could be a school, a college, an office or a factory, a club like Rotary / Lions', a residential society, ... even an individual!

Feel free to implement any of these ideas. You can modify any idea to suit you, and even come up with your own ideas!



# 1. Honour responsible drivers

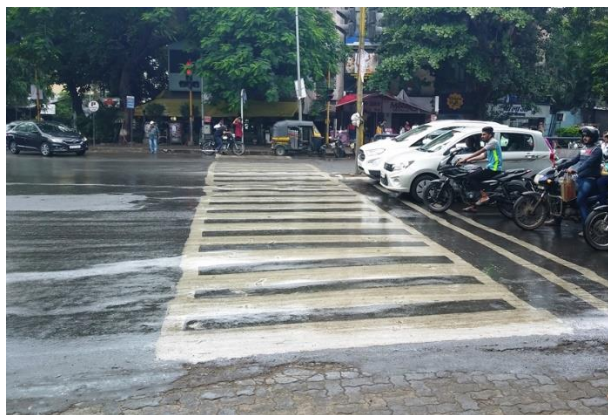
Honour drivers who successfully stop their vehicle before the stop line.

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories), Residential societies, Clubs like Rotary/Lions'
<b>Needs funds</b>	Medium
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Low

## Description of the idea

Identify a traffic signal with functional red and amber signals, clear zebra stripes and stop lines. It may be difficult to find a signalled intersection with the aforementioned infrastructure at all roads approaching the signal, but all these attributes must be present on at least one of the approaching roads. Select only such roads for this activity. Depending on how many volunteers you have, you can select multiple roads at several intersections too.

Visit the signal on the Pedestrians' Day (11th December). A maximum of two volunteers should be present at one road approaching the signal. A large gathering of volunteers would alert the approaching drivers, which should be avoided. For the same reason, do not carry any placards / signs in your hands. You should be as inconspicuous as possible.



When you notice drivers who have successfully stopped their vehicle before not only the zebra stripes, but even the stop line, approach them, and thank them for allowing pedestrians to exercise their right to use the zebra crossing to cross the road. Give them a rose flower and a card that thanks them for this action.

(Optionally - You may also choose to thank drivers that might step 1-2 feet beyond the stop line, but notice their mistake and immediately step back on their own, before they notice you.)

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.



## 2. Help a pedestrian cross a road

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories), Residential societies, Clubs like Rotary/Lions'
<b>Needs some funds</b>	None
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Low

### Description of the idea

It is relatively safer to cross a road at a signalized intersection than crossing a road mid-block (away from any signalized intersection). Yet, it is not against any rule to cross a road mid-block. In fact, pedestrians must be able to cross a road safely even mid-block, irrespective of whether zebra stripes are marked at a given location.

Making an eye-contact with, and making oneself more easily visible to an oncoming driver make a pedestrian safer while crossing a road. One way to achieve this is by 'Holding Your Arm Out' while crossing a road ("पाऊल पुढे? - हात समोर!").

You might want to see this video that explains this technique:

[https://bit.ly/SPTM\\_PPHS](https://bit.ly/SPTM_PPHS)



1. Identify a few volunteers and a road to perform this activity. The road should have a good number of pedestrians crossing it. Roads with shops / street-side eateries on both sides are suitable for this activity.
  - a. Identify a suitable time to do this activity. We suggest 5-7 pm, but it may vary from street to street.
2. This activity should be performed sufficiently away from a signalized intersection.
  - a. If the road has a divider, this activity should be performed at a suitable gap in the divider, where there is sufficient space for pedestrians to stand as they wait for the traffic in the other half to clear up.
3. The volunteers should first see the video above, and internalize it thoroughly. They should also practise this technique themselves for at least a week before doing this activity, and it should become a natural habit for them, regardless of the time of the day!
4. On the day of the activity, the volunteers should spread along a stretch of the road instead of bunching together.



5. Anytime you see a pedestrian about to cross the road, approach them and tell them that you are going to demonstrate a technique that will make it safer for them to cross.
6. Cross the road with them. First look left, then to right, and when there is a suitable gap in the vehicular flow, Hold Your Arm Out and cross. Urge the person to hold their arm out, and say aloud, “पाऊल पुढे? - हात समोर!”
  - a. Also urge them to use this technique every time they cross the road.
7. If possible, create cards with the URL and the QR code given above, plus the catch phrase “पाऊल पुढे? - हात समोर!”, and give it to the person you crossed the road with. They are more likely to imbibe this habit if they carry a souvenir home with them.



Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.



### 3. Felicitate staff / students who walk everyday

Felicitate those who walk to the office / school from the farthest.

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories)
<b>Needs funds</b>	Low
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Low

#### Description of the idea

Appeal students / workers to nominate their friends / colleagues who walk to school / college / workplace every day - or at least most days of the year. Collect data on the distance they walk one-way, and for how many years they have been doing this. If there are a large number of such persons, you may shortlist them based on criteria that suit you. Example criteria: The distance they walk, for how long (how many years) they have been walking, whether they walk in spite of any physical limitations.

Announce their names in your school / college / workplace on the Pedestrians' Day, and award them a certificate of appreciation as well as a prize, at the hands of the Principal / CEO / equivalent.

Felicitate, or at least mention them in your annual function as well, regardless of the date of the function (it need not be Pedestrians' Day.)

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.



## 4. Walk to work, at least for one day

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories)
<b>Needs some funds</b>	Low
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Medium

### Description of the idea

Collect data on students / staff who live within 4 km of the school / college / workplace. Urge them to walk to school / college / workplace on 11th December. It would not take more than 50-60 minutes to walk 4 km.

Create a WhatsApp / similar group or a community of these people. If they think 4 km is a long walk, some of them can try it on one day and share their experience. This will tell people that you can certainly walk 4-5 km to work on at least one day.

2-3 days before the Pedestrians' Day, identify 3-4 major roads that lead to your place of study/work. Identify meeting points and timings on these roads, where people should converge as they come to work. This is important because those who are walking to work that day will feel motivated if they have company. If possible, also suggest a dress code/ colour code for them to wear on Pedestrians' Day.

On 11th December, when these people walk to work, the Principal / CEO / equivalent should welcome them with flowers and/or sweets. It will be highly advisable if some seniors join these people for the last 500 meters as well, if not for the entire 4 km stretch.

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization. Also send a press note to newspapers.



## 5. Drawing / essay / photo competition

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Residential societies, Clubs like Rotary/Lions'
<b>Needs funds</b>	Low / Medium, depending on how it is organized
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Medium

### Description of the idea



Organize a drawing / essay / photo competition in which participants can depict either problems faced by pedestrians, or some good behaviour / infrastructure that ensures pedestrians' convenience and safety.

Clubs like Rotary / Lions' can hold such a competition in a school or a college they closely work with.

Depending on the nature of the expected participants and format, the submissions can be made in an electronic format or in hard copies. Like in any such competitions, the organizers can decide details like whether to allow multiple entries, whether to hold the competition for different age groups, etc.

It should be noted and understood clearly that some 'solutions' that apparently safeguard pedestrians, are in fact inconvenient for pedestrians to use. One such example is the foot overbridges and subways - the fact that pedestrians seldom use these sufficiently shows that they don't suit pedestrians' needs. Prizes should not be awarded to submissions depicting such solutions. Therefore, it is very important that representatives of NGOs working in the field of sustainable transportation, road safety should be invited to judge the submissions, in addition to experts in drawing / painting / photography / literary skills, depending on the nature of the competition.

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.





## 6. Identify the best / worst footpath in your locality

Also write a letter to the appropriate PMC officer.

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories), Residential societies, Clubs like Rotary/Lions'
<b>Needs funds</b>	Almost none
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Medium

### Description of the idea

Consider the area within a radius of about 1 km from your school / college / workplace. Or you may consider any familiar locality of your choice, as per your convenience.



As many of you walk on or along the footpaths in this area, you must have observed several issues that either force you to avoid the footpath, or make the footpath extremely hazardous to use. Or perhaps a road in your locality, even when frequented by many pedestrians, does not have any footpath at all.

Survey a substantial stretch of some footpaths in your neighbourhood and note the following issues for each footpath. It is desirable that you survey at least 1 km, and preferably about 5 km in the same locality. You can form teams of about 3-4 volunteers and assign them sections of 1 km each.

### Issues to be noted are:

8. Does the footpath provide a clear walkway of 2.5 meters, including 0.5 m buffer from compound walls and minimum 2.0 m left for walking alone?
9. Conditions of tiles: If they are broken, note all places where broken tiles render a footpath dangerous to walk.
10. How many times and where were you forced to abandon the footpath and walk on the carriageway instead? Note the reasons as one of the following
  - a. Government-related hindrance: Electric DP box, light pole, bus stop, material for road repairs
  - b. Citizens-related hindrance: Parking, vendors (whether authorized or not)
  - c. Natural: Trees, shrubs from adjacent properties or on the footpath itself
11. How many times did you have to step up-n-down, and for which of the following reasons, respectively?



- a. Entrance of an adjacent property
- b. Intersection with a small lane
- c. Intersection with a wide road

You can tabulate the results as follows:

<b>Footpath surveyed:</b>	From where to where: Estimated length:
<b>Date and time:</b>	
<b>Footpath provides a clear walkway of minimum 2.5 meters?</b>	(a) For most of the stretch (b) At some places (c) Not at all
<b>Condition of tiles</b>	Attached sheet gives a list of all places where the tiles are in a bad condition
<b>Forced to walk on carriageway for these reasons:</b>	(a) Government-related hindrances: ____ times (b) Citizens-related hindrances: ____ times (c) Natural obstructions: ____ times
<b>Had to step up-and-down for these reasons:</b>	(a) Adjacent property entrance: ____ times (b) Intersection with a small lane: ____ times (c) Intersection with a similar/wider road: ____ times

Now prepare a note that documents your observations, add a covering letter, and submit the letter to the nearest PMC Ward Office. Be sure to take an acknowledgement. If the Ward Office thinks that the letter should be submitted to the PMC Head Office, please do so, but also insist that the letter be accepted by that Ward Office.

If you have good relations or contacts with the erstwhile or current Nagarsevaks of that locality, please give them a copy too. If the concerned PMC office eventually resolves your issue, be sure to thank them in person as well as in social media.

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.



## 7. Survey pedestrians' signals

Survey pedestrians' signals at intersections in your locality and write a letter to PMC.

<b>Suitable for</b>	Schools, Colleges, Workplaces (offices/factories), Residential societies, Clubs like Rotary/Lions'
<b>Needs some funds</b>	None
<b>Needs preparation</b>	Medium

### Description of the idea

Intersections with signals are relatively the safest places for pedestrians to cross streets of Pune. Each signalled intersection is expected to provide special signals for pedestrians to help them cross safely. These signals show red or green human figures, and also a red and green timer in case of some new signals. However, even this basic infrastructure is lacking at many intersections with signals.



Surveying these signals is not very complicated. It takes only about 5-10 minutes to survey one intersection. There are about 250 intersections in Pune with working signals. If one volunteer can survey about 4-6 intersections, and if you can arrange about 10-20 volunteers, you can survey 40-100 intersections and submit a report to PMC!

### What to survey

Let us say that 4 roads form a 'chowk'. A pedestrian can cross any road in 2 directions: here to there or there to here. For every direction, you need 2 pedestrian signals: Red and green. In this survey, we simply note-

12. Whether the junction is a 3 way junction (a 'T' or a 'Y' junction), or a 4-way or 5-way junction
13. How many pedestrian signals are physically installed
14. How many pedestrian signals are working: Note that in some of the new signals, the same physical light can show both red or green human figures

### How to report the findings

Prepare a table by filling in the details as shown in the following sample:



Sr no	Name of the intersection	Type of intersection	No of pedestrian signals installed	No of pedestrian signals working
1	Phalana Chowk	3-way	8	2
2	Dhimkana Junction	4-way	9	3
3	...			

Prepare a covering letter addressed to the Head of the Electrical Dept, PMC Main Office, Shivajinagar, Pune 411005. The covering letter should request the Officer to ensure that these signals are repaired at the earliest, to ensure that pedestrians can cross these junctions safely.

Click plenty of photos-videos and share them on the social media with hashtags #PedestriansDay and #SPTM, along with any hashtag for your organization.

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