

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

Sakal Times

# Country needs new solar energy policy: Mazgaonkar

ST CORRESPONDENT  
reporters@sakaaltimes.com

**Navi Peth:** The co-founder of Mozda Collective and Parvavaran Suraksha Samiti, Michael Mazgaonkar has stressed the need to have a new solar energy policy. Mazgaonkar was in the city on Saturday to talk to college students about the importance of renewable energy as part of the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival (KVIFF) on Saturday.

"The solar energy policy of the country, declared in

2009, expired in 2013. There is a need to renew that policy to encourage the use of renewable energy in our country, said Mazgaonkar.

Mazgaonkar has been experimenting with community driven development and activism for the past 27 years in rural Gujarat.

Speaking to the press, Mazgaonkar said, "I stay in the Shoolpaneshwar wildlife sanctuary in the Satpuda mountains of Gujarat for the past 27 years. We have installed wind electric generators and photovoltaic installation there, which produces



Michael Mazgaonkar (L) and Neeraj Jain of Lokayat at the KVIFF press conference held at Patrakar Bhavan on Saturday.

8 units of electricity every day. Out of eight units, three units are used while the rest

remain unused."

He added that due to certain government restric-

tions, the unused energy is not being connected to the grid due to which its not being utilised. "It is important to understand that there are many regions in the country which are not connected by the electric grid circuit. But people cannot remain dependent on the government for everything and hence, must harness renewable forms of energy."

Mazgaonkar stressed that to make full use of the renewable energy sources, it is important that government encourages production of renewable energy.