

1. Introduction

Navi Mumbai on the mainland across the harbour is a major urban development project taken by Government of Maharashtra. Navi Mumbai is the outcome of recommendations of the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Planning Board, which submitted its report on January 1970. Navi Mumbai is developed through a specially constituted planning authority and fully owned Government Company, namely CIDCO. Regional Planners as well as special planning authority have applied their full expertise to provide the best physical environment to this city. The city has been provided with well-planned amenities and infrastructure facilities to the best design practices of town planning and environmental norms.

The physical environment of the city constitutes Land, Climate, Vegetation, Forests, Wildlife, Wetlands, Infrastructure, Public services & utilities, Air pollution levels, Noise levels, Water pollution levels, Community facilities & services. The rapid and excessive development of the city results in deterioration of physical environment that results in the poor quality of life of citizen.

This fact is witnessed all over the world. Hence United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 established "Agenda 21" for environmental sustainability. Sustainable development is that meets the needs of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The conservation of natural resources is a strong component of sustainable development. It is thus essential to monitor the physical components of environment in order to maintain the quality of life in the city and also to ensure sustainable development.

With 74th Amendments to the constitution in India, the local bodies got Constitutional status but at the same time the twelfth Schedule under article 243 W cast upon these bodies to perform duties, which are more than traditional one.

"Urban forestry, Protection of environment and Promotion of Ecological aspects": is one of the important additions in this list.

Protection of environment and Promotion of Ecological aspects is wide subject that includes many sectors and department and crosses geographical boundaries. Department like water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, storm water drains, roads, traffic, wetlands, trees, gardens, social, facilities, markets, buildings, factories, slum improvement, educations, are all concerned with the subject.

As per provisions of the related Acts, all Municipal Corporations and 'A' class Municipal Councils are required to prepare the Environmental Status Report on "Protection of Environment and Promotion of Ecological Aspects": at local level every year.

The aims of preparation of Environmental Status Report are:

- a) The achievement of healthier and fuller life, including desirable environment for citizen
- b) The long-range survival and welfare of society including life supporting environment
- c) Introduction of environmental management at municipal level planning,
- d) Assessing environment on yearly basis and deciding priority for short and long-term environmental actions.

Thus Environmental Status Report while assessing the present status of environmental quality attempts to identify potential problem areas, devise strategies in terms of priority areas of corrective and preventive action, enabling institutional mechanisms, and monitoring arrangements.

The report is divided in 22 sections. First 19 sections deal with each individual environmental component. This includes review of previous year actions and short term planning for next year. The summary of environmental status of all components is given in section 20. The section 21 summarizes future actions for long range planning. The section 22 includes supplementary information.