

# नवी मुंबईतील प्रदूषणाची समस्या

४ एप्रिल २०१४

रूपाली घाटे

**GreenEarth**

GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd.  
contactus.greenearth@gmail.com

(पर्यावरणाच्या नीलप्रतीसाठी)

# नवी मुंबईतील प्रदूषणाची समस्या

- खारगर परिसरातील कारखान्यांमधून सोडल्या जाणाऱ्या दूषित सांडपाण्यामुळे कासरडी नदीतील मत्स्यव्यवसाय धोक्यात आला आहे. कारखान्यांना त्यांचे दूषित पाणी प्रक्रिया करून मग नदीत सोडणे कायद्याने बंधनकारक असूनही हे घडताना दिसत नाही. याचा स्थानिकांच्या जीवनमानावर विपरित परिणाम होत आहे<sup>1</sup>.
- ठाणे आणि पनवेल खाडीच्या मध्ये १५ चौ.कि.मी.ची पार्सिक डोंगर फोडला जात आहे. आत्तापर्यंत १.४ चौ.कि.मी (९%) फोडून झाला आहे. असेच जर चालू राहिले तर येत्या ५ वर्षांत डोंगराचा एक संपूर्ण भाग (३०%) भुईसपाट होण्याची शक्यता आहे. याच डोंगरावर स्थलांतरितांचे अतिक्रमण झालेले आहे<sup>2</sup>.
- खारगर, मानसरोवर, कामोठे आणि खांडेश्वर येथे १३० वीटभट्ट्या आहेत, ज्यापैकी ४० वीटभट्ट्या वनक्षेत्रात असून तेथील खारफुटी नष्ट करून बांधलेल्या आहेत. याच भागामध्ये बेकायदेशीर वाळू उपसा मोठ्या प्रमाणात होत असल्यानेदेखील खारफुटी क्षेत्र कमी होत असून नष्ट होण्याच्या मार्गावर आहे<sup>3</sup>.

(खारफुटी या त्सुनामी, पूर यांसारख्या महाकाय नैसर्गिक आपत्तींच्या काळात मनुष्यजीवनाची व एकूणच हानी कमी करण्यामध्ये उपयुक्त ठरतात. नजीकची उदाहरणे- तमिळनाडू)

- नवी मुंबईतील कचरा वाहतूक, कचरा विल्हेवाट यांचे ठेके आणि दर ठरविण्यातील काँग्रेस आणि राष्ट्रवादी काँग्रेस यांच्यामधील राजकारण, घनकचरा विभागातील भ्रष्टाचारामुळे नवी मुंबईचे कचरा व्यवस्थापन कोलमडले आहे<sup>4</sup>.

## सोबत संबंधित बातम्या जोडल्या आहेत

<sup>1</sup> <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/MIDC-factories-are-polluting-water-bodies-in-Navi-Mumbai-Activists/articleshow/28123396.cms>

<sup>2</sup> <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Encroachment-quarrying-take-a-toll-on-Parsik-Hill/articleshow/16226389.cms>

<sup>3</sup> <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/Brick-kilns-sand-mining-mock-green-ban/articleshow/30013131.cms>

<sup>4</sup> <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/Garbage-politics-makes-Navi-Mumbai-resemble-a-dump/articleshow/22561238.cms>

[http://article.wn.com/view/2014/01/17/CM\\_in\\_a\\_dilemma\\_over\\_NMMC\\_garbage\\_tendering\\_rate/](http://article.wn.com/view/2014/01/17/CM_in_a_dilemma_over_NMMC_garbage_tendering_rate/)

## संबंधित बातम्या

### **MIDC factories are polluting water bodies in Navi Mumbai: Activists**

Sameera Kapoor Munshi, TNN | Dec 30, 2013, 06.14AM IST

NAVI MUMBAI: Residents and activists have alleged that industries in MIDC are polluting the Kasardi river in Kharghar. They have written to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to investigate their allegations. They will also protest at the MPCB offices on Monday.

Fishermen and residents noticed that the river in Kharghar was unfit for consumption and trade. They made several complaints to the ward officers and MPCB but to no avail. They then approached activists for help.

"I have noticed that between 11am and 4pm, a foul stench starts to emanate from the river," said Rambram Rai, a member of Green Environment, an NGO that has taken up the residents' cause. "This problem is faced primarily by sector 10, 8 and 2 residents," he added. Residents, a few months ago, noticed that the river that flowed through sector 10 was getting murkier.

"The river earlier was used for fishing but following the release of chemical effluents this activity has stopped. The fishermen were told that an underground pipe is releasing untreated industrial water that has almost wiped off all marine lives," said Rajesh Karale, another member.

Green Environment has been working for the cleaning of several water bodies across the state, sent a water sample for testing and found that untreated water was being released from factories in MIDC.

"Dirty water from the 900-odd industries in Taloja is not being treated during the night as mandated by the state government," said a member involved with the study. The NGO has demanded that MPCB crack down on these industries and get the river cleaned.

"To verify our claims, we have sent samples of the water to the MPCB," said the member. The MPCB has said the industries are forbidden from releasing waste water into rivers. They can only do so in creeks. "If the residents have doubts, officials will be sent to take samples," said an official from the pollution control board.

On Monday Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Mumbai will be in receipt of samples of polluted water collected from 28 rivers flowing across different parts of Maharashtra. Environmentalists in a bid to draw attention of MPCB officials towards the increasing pollution of water bodies is conducting protest that will involve handing out water samples from across the state. From Navi Mumbai, Kharghar based NGO Green Environment will be providing with

two litres of water sample from the Kasardi River.

Residents of the node alleged that the chemical effluents from Taloja, MIDC are being released without getting treated especially in the night. "Between 11 and 4 the stench that emanates from the river is unbearable often causing difficulty to breathe as well. This problem is faced primarily by sector 10, 8 and 2 residents," said Rambram Rai, a member of the organization.

The Ngo reviewed the reason for the stench that included talking with the local fishermen and even with industrialists from MIDC. "The river earlier was used for fishing but following the release of the chemical effluents this activity has stopped. It was told by the fishermen that a pipe laid underground from MIDC is releasing untreated industrial water that has affected the marine lives. It was also found that the water released from MIDC early in the morning is murky and had bad odour," said Rajesh Karale, another member.

Driven with the belief that the dirty water from the 900 odd industries in Taloja is not getting treated during the night time, the NGO is participating in this protest. According to the organization MPCB is not implementing stringent monitoring system that will ensure that the common Effluent Treatment plant abide with the norms laid before releasing industrial effluents. "So that MPCB can certify our claims we are providing with water collected from the river post-midnight. The quality of the water will for sure won't match the parameters laid down by MPCB," adds the members.

Meanwhile MPCB officials expressed surprise over the resident's doubts that industrial affluent is getting released into river. "First and foremost industrial effluents by law is never released into river, it is always released into creeks. Nevertheless if there is ground for doubts then special officers can be sent for inspection and ascertain the nature of their grievance," informed the official.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/MIDC-factories-are-polluting-water-bodies-in-Navi-Mumbai-Activists/articleshow/28123396.cms>

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### **Encroachment, quarrying take a toll on Parsik Hill**

Clara Lewis, TNN | Sep 3, 2012, 12.10AM IST

MUMBAI: The 15-sq-km Parsik Hill, nestled between Thane and Panvel creeks, is facing the threat of extinction and if steps are not taken immediately, the entire stretch of reserved forests will vanish to quarrying and rampant encroachment. So far, 1.4sq km or 9% of the hill has reportedly been sliced off, and if activists are to be believed, an entire part of the hill, around 30% of it, will be destroyed in five years, by the time the quarry contracts expire.

With a 7-km-long, 10-ft-wide ridge starting in Belapur, ideal for trekking, the picturesque hill could have been turned into a popular eco-tourism hub, complete with picnic spots, summer

camps and facilities for rock-climbing, but the place is slowly being flattened out, with contractors bulldozing the slopes for stones. "The hill has a huge potential for eco-tourism, given that it runs through the municipal limits of Thane and Navi Mumbai and is about 30 minutes from Mumbai. Besides trekking trails, there is also a rock-climbing centre in Mumbra," said an activist. But besides the hill facade being excavated in Navi Mumbai, on the Mumbra side, new shanties are cropping up along the slopes and temples being built. Activists fear that the constant onslaught will rob Mumbai of one of its few green stretches, and with it, the flora and fauna—wild boars, barking deer, numerous reptiles, insects and over a 100 species of birds—of the locality will disappear.

Trekker enthusiast Ameya Gokhale said it was curious to find so many temples in the area. "I went trekking in the hills 18 months ago, the most popular trail being outside Kalwa station. Now, with shanties encroaching right up to the top of the area, it is almost impossible to walk there. At Kalamboli, illegal scrapyards block the way," he said. The construction of roads along the hill has apparently granted easy access to the unprotected forest, resulting in encroachment.

Despite its adverse impact on nature, quarrying is not illegal as the forest department has given Cidco 7 sq km of the hill to be "used appropriately". Nearly 90 quarries function in the Cidco's part of the reserved forest and another 24 on forest department land. Each quarry is spread over 2.5 acre or 1 hectare. Officials said all the quarrying licences will end in about five years. Director of NGO Vanshakti V Stalin said, "At the end of it all, one side of the hill will be completely sliced off. The contractors claim to stick to the rule of limiting their business to 1 hectare for each quarry, but we don't know what they are actually up to. By the way the quarrying is going on, around 30% of the hill will be gone in another five years, when the leases expire. The other part of the hill is being taken over by illegal temples and slums."

According to forest officials, over 11,000 hutments and 100 temples have come up in the hill, and more are mushrooming every day. "The high court has ordered the demolition of illegal structures and we do carry out such drives. We will hold another razing campaign soon," said R K Pole, chief conservator of forests.

But lack of administrative will and indulgence from political parties—an NCP office has been set up on forest land abutting Shil Phata road—have ensured that the green reserve is being destroyed, said Stalin. He added the forest department must protect its property. G T Chavan, deputy conservator of forests, said the department had assigned the task of building a wall to the PWD. "We will build a 50-km-long wall. We are working towards evicting the squatters," he said.

Times View: Parsik Hills is unique, given its proximity to three big cities. But it's somehow fallen

under the National Park's shadow and government agencies do not seem to be too worked up about its problems. Religious installations are indicators of planned encroachment but government agencies often wake up after the problem has grown too huge to be tackled effectively. These problems should be nipped in the bud or Mumbai and its neighbourhood may lose yet another green zone.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Encroachment-quarrying-take-a-toll-on-Parsik-Hill/articleshow/16226389.cms>

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### **Brick kilns, sand mining mock green ban**

Vijay Singh, TNN | Feb 8, 2014, 12.26AM IST

NAVI MUMBAI: Environmentalists are worried about the growing number of brick kilns in and around the green mangrove belt in Kharghar and Kamothe nodes. They said some of them have even started encroaching on forest land.

Apart from this illegal activity in the coastal regulation zone (CRZ), even sand mining is taking place stealthily at a few places in the creek between Kharghar and Mansarovar railway stations.

"Many more brick kilns have started operating near the mangroves. Some of the new ones have encroached on forestland, in the process, destroying many mangroves," said environmentalist D Stalin from NGO Vanashakti.

While there are over 130 brick kilns in Kharghar, Mansarovar, Kamothe and Khandeshwar, at least 40 of them are said to be inside forest area meant for mangroves.

On the issue of illegal sand mining happening in the area, Panvel tehsildar Pawan Chandak said that they have regularly raided certain spots and seized vacuum pumps and other equipment used to carry out such operations. Environmentalist Sumaira Abdulali from NGO Awaaz Foundation said, "It's sort of a pincer effect for the mangroves which are caught between brick kilns and illegal sand mining."

"The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had recently given a favourable order on my petition against sand mining operations in the state. However, a lot more work needs to be done to save our environment," she added. Abdulali also said that the Pune bench, which passed the NGT order earlier this week, had urged the district officials of all coastal regions in Maharashtra to strictly look out for any illegal sand mining taking place in CRZ areas and take legal action against the culprits.

While responding to an affidavit filed by the NGT, Navi Mumbai assistant commissioner of police Suresh Pawar said that they had taken action against 57 illegal sand mining

operations. However, the tribunal, in its order, has also urged the Navi Mumbai police to analyze the type and category of sand seized and ensure that illegal mining activities are completely stopped.

"The Konkan region commissioner and the forest department have also been intimidated about various activities that are damaging the mangroves," said Debi Goenka of Bombay Environmental Action Group. "We recently celebrated World Wetlands Day, but it is high time we take care of our wetlands every day to stop further degradation," Goenka added.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/Brick-kilns-sand-mining-mock-green-ban/articleshow/30013131.cms>

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### **Garbage politics makes Navi Mumbai resemble a dump**

SANJAY BANERJEE, TNN | Sep 14, 2013, 12.30AM IST

NAVI MUMBAI: Despite the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) deploying several vehicles for eight wards in the city for ensuring that the city remains clean during the festive season, residents complain the clearance mechanism is still far from being satisfactory.

The average total waste generated daily during regular months is pegged at 600 MT and it increases during monsoons and festive period. During rains, green waste adds to the garbage generated and festival time means more disposal by the solid waste management as an extra load of around 60 MT is generated per day. The city is in a messy situation where smelly garbage in heaps get piled up—clearly an eyesore. The civic body has currently deployed 111 small and big vehicles for the eight wards, but the clearance has not been proper. Largely, dumpers, tempo and trucks have been pressed into service but tempos are used in Turbhe and Koperkhairane as they can easily move through the narrow lanes.

Thanks to the festival, vehicles with lesser carrying capacity compared to the bigger garbage compactors with five and ten tonne capacity of the previous contractor has now meant more trips that often gets extended late into the evening by 8 pm. In Navi Mumbai, Vashi generates the highest quantity of garbage with around 100 MT to 120-122 MT followed by Nerul with around 110MT -116 MT and Belapur generating 90 MT-105 MT while Digha generates only 10-24 MT waste during the festive season.

The main road of Vashi, opposite to the crowded vegetable, fish and mutton market is a case in point how the trucks and dumpers being used to transport the waste clogs the road, causing traffic jams and the tax payers having to inhale rotten smell.

The NMMC is concerned about an early resolution of settling the tonnage rate in the wake of an apparent face-off between the NCP controlled civic body and the state government. The

urban development department headed by the chief minister worked out a fresh package of Rs 1,233 per ton against Rs 1,503 per ton passed by the NMMC general body.

The CM took up the cudgels after his party colleague and corporator Dashrath Bhagat complained about corruption in the tender amount passed by the general body. The government referred the issue to an additional municipal commissioner of BMC for an inquiry cum report. The revised lower rates were worked out on payment to contract workers on minimum wages model against the NMMC continuing policy of equal pay-equal work.

Civic commissioner Aabasaheb Jarhad forwarded the concerned file to the urban development department on Wednesday. He said the government can either accept, modify or reject the proposal. The NCP that fought back the allegation of corruption has made its intention clear. Senior party leader and Thane guardian minister, Ganesh Naik has gone public during the festival time spelling out his confrontation while asking contract workers if they wanted to be paid less.

Mayor Sagar Naik asked, "Where is the corruption charge that made us look like we were making money out of garbage. Rather, we have the right to make more payment if we can and it is as per government rules. The overall increase in the rates is also on account of the hike in diesel costs and factoring in other operational costs. The allegation is baseless and has led to unnecessary delays and created confusion." Jarhad said the government rules allow for payments to be made on both the models.

With both Lok Sabha and state assembly election scheduled in 2014, the issue of making payments to contract workers has obvious political overtones. The NCP said there are some 4,000 contract workers with around 800 of them engaged with the solid waste disposal.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/Garbage-politics-makes-Navi-Mumbai-resemble-a-dump/articleshow/22561238.cms>

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