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MUMBAI FIRST ENVIRONMENT PROPOSAL
FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

IMPROVED DELIVERY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Environment Group of Mumbai First has been discussing among its members how to improve the delivery of various services rendered to Mumbai City by its governmental and local body agencies. With the objective of improving these services, we approach you Sir, with a request to pay your kind attention to at least the following items which impact our lives in no uncertain terms.

These items are :

1. Preservation of open spaces
2. Solid waste collection and disposal
3. Waste water disposal and reuse of water
4. Energy efficiency
5. Mangrove protection and promotion
6. Noise abatement

There are no doubts that there are several on-going policies and programmes in each of the sectors concerned. Like all matters, we feel they need review and in some cases revision from time to time. In most cases, policies need a re-thought in the light of actual experience and programmes need re-modelling as circumstances change.

We therefore, give some important issues concerning each item and offer our humble recommendations thereon. We hope you will agree with them and take suitable action.



THE ENVIRONMENT MISSION

PROPOSALS FROM MUMBAI FIRST
FOR HON'BLE CM's CONSIDERATION

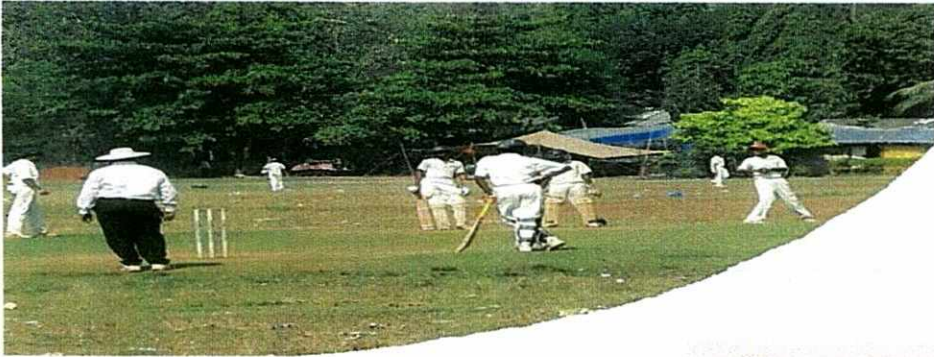




THE ENVIRONMENT MISSION

MAJOR ISSUES IN MUMBAI

1. Preservation of open spaces
2. Solid waste collection & disposal
3. Wastewater disposal & reuse of water
4. Energy efficiency
5. Noise abatement
6. Mangrove Protection and Promotion



PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACES

Present status:

Recommended by GOI/NBC = 4 acres per 1000 persons

Actual in Mumbai = 0.03 acres per 1000 persons

Way forward:

- **Constitute a city level authority for Landscaping and Maintaining all green, eco-sensative open spaces – irrespective of under whose jurisdiction it falls.**
- Upgrade derelict lands & convert into reserved open spaces
- **Re-look Gov & BMC policies to preserve open spaces:**
(Review Caretaker, SRA, Cluster Dev, Tourism Dev policies, etc
Freeze all de-reserved open spaces, permit no change of user
- See notes for more suggestions



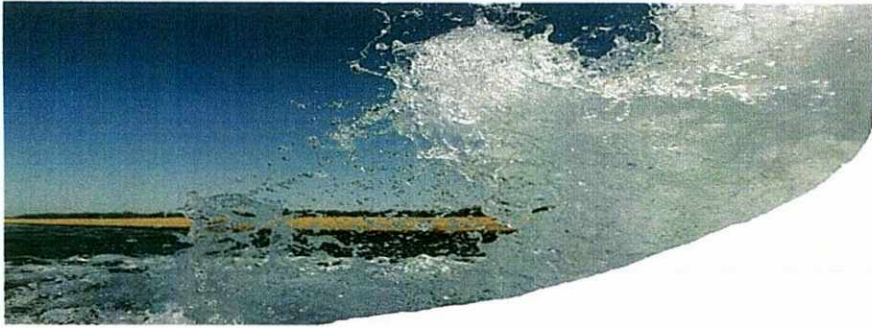
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Present status:

- After spending Rs 1,50,000 daily to clear 7000 tons of waste, Mumbai still remains a filthy city with smelly nallahs, solid waste dumps everywhere and primitive collection & disposal systems
- Too many authorities/owners who do not clean their resp areas.
- Waste is nobody's business, nobody's priority. Outdated methods

Way forward:

- Set up a single, centralized, corporate agency within MCGM (like BEST) with undivided responsibility for SWM for all Mumbai from source to disposal.
- Professionally managed. Using best international practices. Out of box. With incentives and fines. Separate empowered police / security.



Wastewater Disposal & Reuse of Water

Present status

- Mumbai has reduced its water supply from 150 to 90 L/p/day and urged people to do rainwater harvesting and reuse. People also use tanker water of doubtful quality.
- 60% of Mumbai lives in slums. They need to be given some interim sanitation until they get better housing under SRA scheme

Way forward

- **Promote greater reuse of wastewater for non-potable purposes:**
Either provide fiscal incentives (e.g, reduced Property tax),
OR get BMC to install local, large-scale reuse plants and get tanker suppliers to transport the treated wastewater for retail sale to users
- **For sanitation in slums: Provide UNESCO method of supplying water to every hut (@ 15-20L/pers for 1-2 hours only and providing “shallow sewers” to carry grey waters from the huts. Continue Sulabh type community toilets. Also handle garbage by vermiculture as explained.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Present status:

- Electrical energy is wasted in using inefficient appliances in homes, offices and industries. The nation wastes money in importing oil, etc, to run power stations.
- Generating electricity simultaneously produces carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas leading to global warming.

Way Forward

- When replacing appliances, adopt BEE rated appliances. Check buildings to conform to ECBC norms. Get industries to do the same
- Promote “green” buildings through fiscal incentives.
- Ensure infrastructure for water supply, wastewater treatment, solid wastes collection and disposal comply with energy optimization concepts



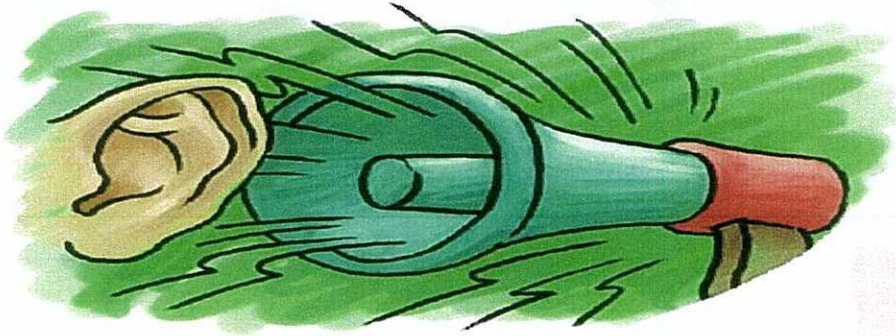
MANGROVE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION

Present status

- Nearly 5,000 ha of mangroves exist around Greater Mumbai. These mangroves are under constant threat of destruction/reclamation due to development pressures and pollution.
- Public awareness of the benefits of mangrove protection and promotion is generally poor. Hence, public participation in control is missing.

Way Forward:

- Expertise exists among educational/scientific institutions that can be used (BNHS, IIT, etc).
- Their expertise has to be harnessed in developing new policies for their protection and promotion.



NOISE ABATEMENT

Present status:

- Noise is a serious problem in Mumbai all the time since noise sources are cultural, traffic and constructional in origin.
- Noises are particularly difficult to tolerate near hospitals, residences, teaching institutions, etc
- Noise guidelines are generally violated with impunity on cultural pretext, festivals, etc. Traffic honking is a national evil.

Way Forward:

- Control is generally very weak and very indulgent.
- Control needs to be tightened up
- Noise mapping would reveal the areas needing urgent action