

# ENVIRONMENT STATUS REPORT FOR AURANGABAD CITY

2017-2018



**AURANGABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AMC Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

BAMU Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University

CIDCO City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra

CPCB Central Pollution Control Board

IHME Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

IIT Indian Institute of Technology

MIDC Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation

MPCB Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

MSRDC Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation

MSME Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises

MSRTC Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation

NEERI National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

WHO World Health Organization

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Preparation of Environmental Status Reports (ESRs) is mandated in the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act. It attempts to identify emerging environmental issues in city and encourages municipality to formulate and adopt an Action Plan. Aurangabad is the administrative headquarters of Marathwada region. City is a tourism hub and industrial hub. Weather is hot and dry with low rainfall and poor forest cover therefore the city is prone to dust both during summer and winter.

Increasing industrialization has led to growth of urban population. Since Aurangabad has far less percentage of forest cover (8.83%) it is expected that ETF battalion would be effective in bringing 100 acres of area under afforestation in phases. In addition mass campaigns should be undertaken with public for afforestation. Land use pattern analysis suggests construction activities would be a significant source of dust in future therefore; AMC must compile report regarding compliance of construction projects demolishing and undertaking new construction activities in a closed manner. AMC must also focus on provision of roads and other infrastructure in these newly developing areas to control pollution.

City has rich flora and fauna but the pressure on biodiversity is immense from various associated sources, principally land use change and pollution. However, a balance must be maintained between land brought under use and the impact on the

local biodiversity. Aurangabad has biodiverse sites such as Himayat Bagh, Harsul Lake and Salim Ali Lake that are rich in biodiversity and in need of conservation. The local civic body must form the mandatory Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) at the earliest.

Based on air quality results conducted by the MPCB, annual PM10 concentrations have been above the Standards while Annual SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations in the city have been within the limits. Emission inventory and source apportionment research for Aurangabad must be completed at the earliest. More monitoring stations are needed within the city in commercial, industrial and sensitive areas. City lacks display boards providing air quality information to public. It needs to urgently undertake research studies relating to health for a better understanding of the impact of air pollution on its residents. Data clearly indicates that Kranti Chowk, Baba petro pump and CIDCO bus stand with high traffic density have high noise levels. Even Waluj industrial area and Gulmandi have high levels of noise. AMC should step up enforcement of standards with the help of Police, in addition to organizing continuous awareness campaigns among the citizens about the effects of noise pollution.

City's surface water is scarce and the groundwater is polluted which would adversely impact human health. With Aurangabad prone to drought-like situation AMC may utilize over 100 public wells cleaning the wells (desilting) and installing

small water filtration plants along with overhead tanks near the wells. In order to raise the falling table level it is important to install rainwater harvesting system in the housing societies.

The evaluation of soil health status revealed that the soil of Aurangabad are moderately alkaline in nature with low organic carbon content, low available nitrogen and are very low in available phosphorus. Sustainable agricultural practices such as intercropping, mixed cropping and integrated nutrient management programme should be adopted.

There are four industrial clusters in the city. There are 09 major source emission air polluting industries in Chikalthana MIDC, 07 in Shendra MIDC. There are 67 units of major source emission air polluting industries in MIDC Waluj. Industry must take adequate steps for control of air pollution as mandated by the MPCB. Existing conditions of local roads is not up to the mark. In March, 2017 various proposals have been approved for widening, resurfacing and construction of roads as well as flyovers. During the period between 2015 and 2016 vehicles have shown a growth rate of 8% from 1020021 in 2015 to 1102444 in 2016. Two wheelers clearly comprise a major proportion of Aurangabad city vehicle population (78%).

The number of cars is 55123 and that of autorickshaws is 26529.



Aurangabad has 29 buses running on 12 to 13 routes but residents of Satara, Devlai, Naregaon, Mukundwadi, Mitmita, Padegaon are neglected. Soon AMC will start 5 electric buses in the city on a pilot basis which will be increased to 150. Also dust cleaners will be engaged to clean major roads. Despite Aurangabad having 26,000 registered auto-rickshaws, the parking stands are limited to only around 150 across city limits which need to be increased to 500. This initiative would lead to minimizing the use of private vehicles within the city. In Oct 2017 city received its first e-rickshaw along with e-rickshaw charging and training centre. Being an industrial hub city must lay its claim to the provision of CNG. Through various retail outlets within six months, Aurangabad city has consumed impressive one lakh litres of biodiesel a month blended with diesel. Efforts must be made to popularize biodiesel consumption in the city and also for its buses.

In 2016 AMC introduced windrow composting facilities in 12 civic wards for effective processing of the waste this should be taken up in other wards as well. Need for the city is a community based solid waste management system involving recycling and windrow composting along with sanitary land filling. Awareness programme must be implemented regarding waste segregation at source. Garbage burning in open areas leads to poor air quality in Aurangabad. AMC must act and penalize the defaulters. Full implementation of Smart City project initiatives will also improve the environmental quality of the city.