



डॉ. दि. भा. बोराळकर
सदस्य सचिव
Dr. D. B. Boralkar
MEMBER SECRETARY

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ
MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

FOREWORD

Airoli node is in Navi Mumbai. MPCB received complaints from people regarding pollution problems and need for environmental improvement. In response, a Committee of Experts was appointed to study the issues involved and suggest further course of action to ameliorate the situation. The Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of Prof. S.B. Chaphekar, well known expert in ecology, has completed this work and submitted report. We trust the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, CIDCO and other concerned departments will consider the recommendations contained in this report and initiate actions for prevention and control of pollution in Airoli.

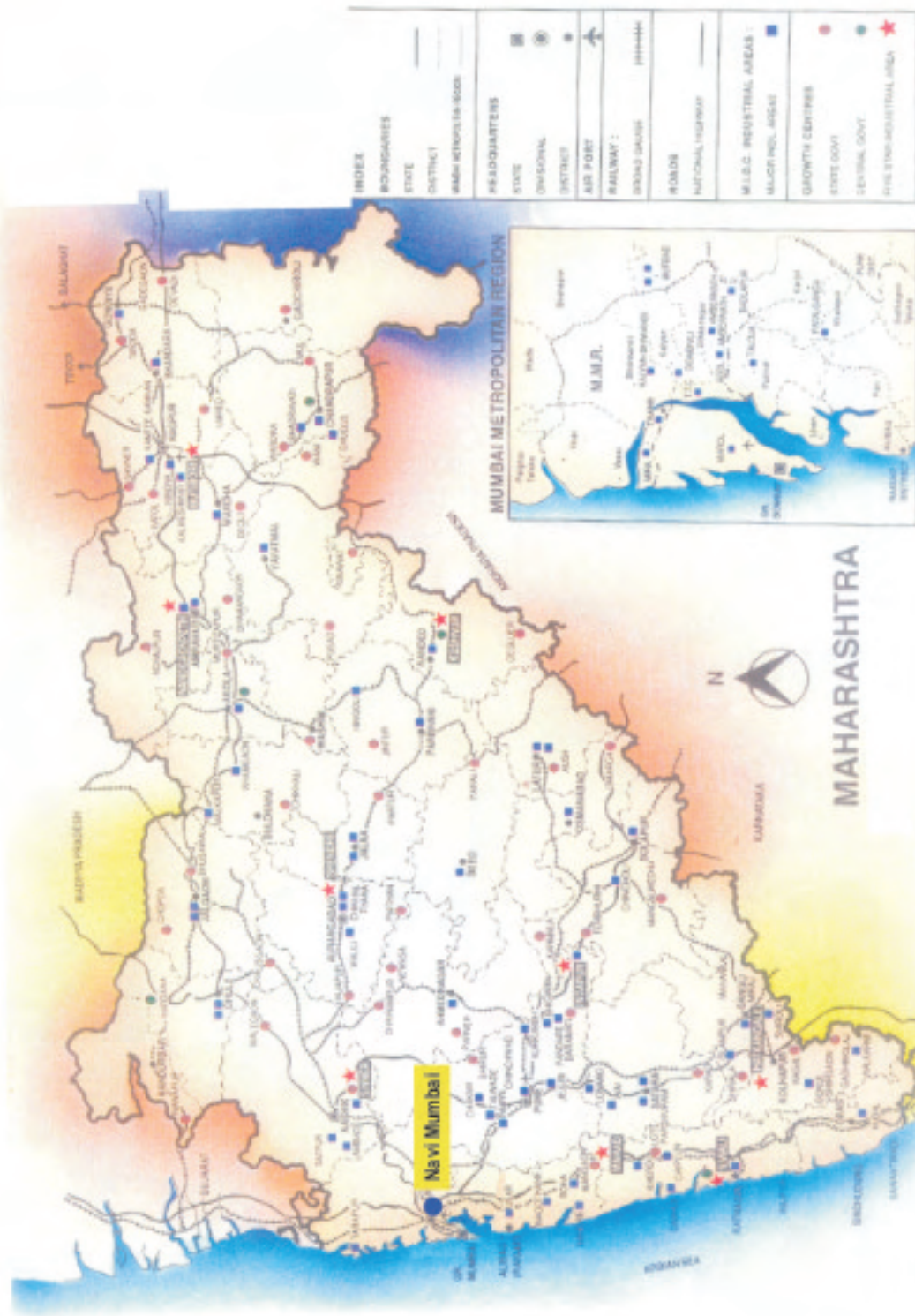
I appreciate the efforts of the members of the Expert Committee in conducting this study and submitting the report well in time. The Committee was also assisted by other officers of the Board namely, Shri K.B. Shinde, Shri A.F. Deshmane, Shri P.M. Joshi, Sub-Regional Officers, Shri S.S. Pangarkar, Stenographer and Shri S.S. Anekar, Data Entry Operator.

(D.B. Boralkar)
Member Secretary
July 20, 2005

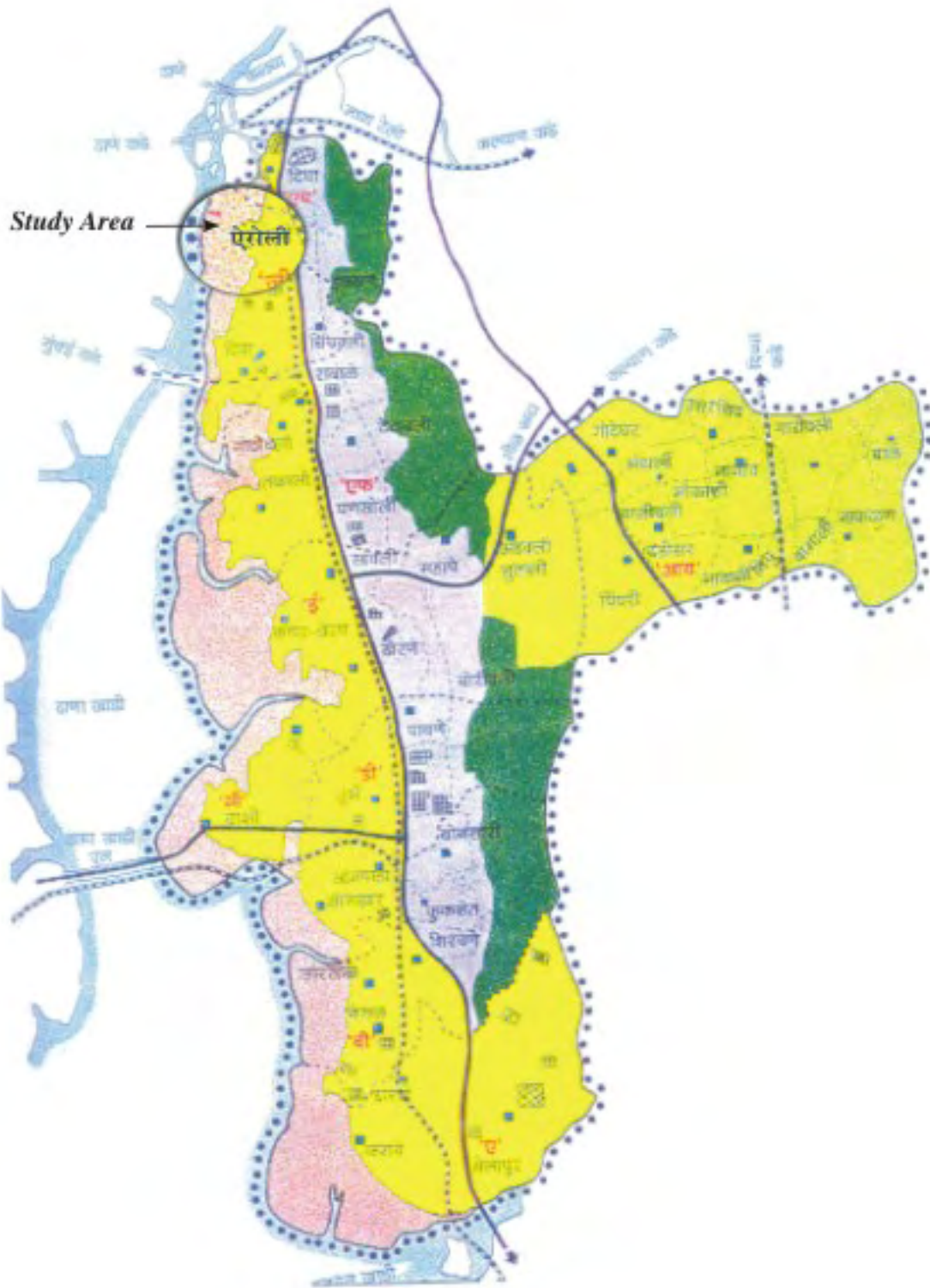
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Title
1.	A lone <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> thicket in a fishing pond where other mangroves have been harvested to create the pond
2.	Poorly maintained STP at Airoli
3.	Solid waste dumped along the artificial fishing pond
4.	Holding pond at Airoli with Mangroves growing along the boundary
5.	Dumping of refuse & municipal solid waste on the bank of Airoli holding pond
6.	Non-functioning aerator at Airoli Sewage Treatment Plant
7.	Fishpond opposite to Burns Hospital, Airoli
8.	Stagnated water in fishpond, bund on left foreground, stumps of harvested mangroves and seedlings of <i>Avicennia</i> are visible.
9.	Abundance of <i>Avicennia</i> seedlings promise regeneration of mangroves under protection.
10.	The abandoned jetty & the other structures that were used for construction of Airoli bridge

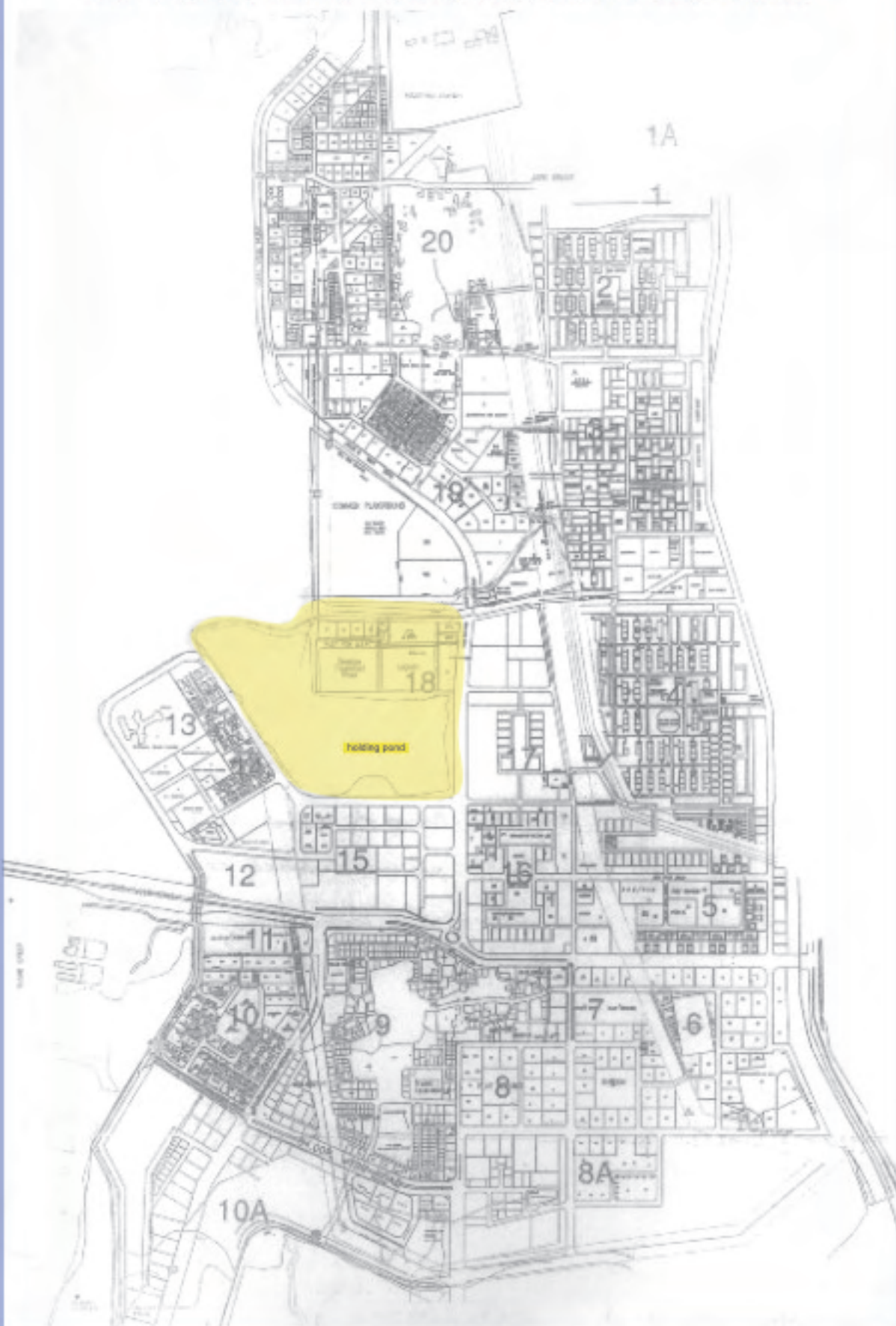
Map - 1 : Map of Maharashtra showing location of Mumbai & Navi Mumbai



Map - 2 : Map of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation area showing location of Airoli Node



Map - 3 : Map of Airoli node showing various sectors covering study area



1 GENESIS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1.1** Hon'ble Shri. Gajanan Kirtikar, MLA vide his letter dtd. 4th Feb., 2005 addressed to the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai presented pitiable condition of environment at the planned Park Site in Airoli and requested MPCB to take necessary measures/action for Beautification & Pollution control of Airoli creek & its surrounding area.
- 1.2** Upon receipt of the same, Member Secretary, MPC Board constituted a committee vide Office Order No. E-19/2005, vide letter No. 961 dtd. 24-02-05
- 1.3** The committee comprised of the following :
 - i.** Prof. Dr. S. B. Chaphekar
`Laxmi-Niketani`, Dhaswadi, J.S.S. Road, Thakurdwar, Mumbai-2
 - ii.** Shri. Kishor Dhariya
Hirwal Pratishthan, RH-1/K-14, Sector 7 Vashi, New Mumbai- 400 703
 - iii.** Shri Hemant Rane
14G Khotachi Wadi, V.R. Road, Mumbai- 4
 - iv.** Dr.A.R.Supate
Project Leader, Zoning Atlas, MPCB, Navi Mumbai.
 - v.** Shri A.B.Jain
Senior Law Officer (HQ), MPCB, Mumbai
 - vi.** Shri.S.S.Doke
Regional Officer (P&P), MPCB, Mumbai
 - vii.** Shri D.M.Choukhande,
Regional Officer, MPCB, Navi Mumbai.
 - viii.** Shri N. Sadasivan (Invitee)
202, Mukteshwar Co-op Hs. Soc., Sector -3, Vashi, Navi Mumbai- 400703
- 1.4** The validity period of the said Committee was 3 months from the date of the order i.e. 24/02/05.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE:

- 2.1** To investigate and assess proposal received from Hon'ble Shri. Gajanan Kirtikar, MLA
- 2.2** To visit & survey Airoli creek & its surrounding area
- 2.3** To prepare Action Plan with recommendations

METHOD OF WORK:

- 3.1** The Committee met for the first time on 04/04/2005 at MPCB (HQ), Sion, Mumbai. Members were informed about the background of the Committee. The given ToR was discussed and it was decided to visit the site to assess the situation first hand. Minutes of the meetings were drafted and circulated to the members before next meeting.
- 3.2** The Committee met at Airoli site twice, i.e. on 15/04/05 and 09/05/05 to coincide with low tide and high tide respectively. Observations were made at the Park site, mangroves at different places i.e. from opposite the hospital, around the holding pond & the sewage treatment plant (STP). State of functioning of the STP & release of sewage water into the mangrove area were particularly examined. Old construction site south of the Airoli-Mulund Bridge was also critically examined. Fishing ponds & their operation were observed, though the committee could not meet any fisherman at site during the two visits, available information from locals, about fishing activity, was recorded (Map No. 3).
- 3.2** Detailed deliberations amongst the members were carried out during the next meeting on 16/5/05, at MPCB (HQ) office. Representatives of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), CIDCO and Forest & Revenue Departments were invited for this meeting. The representatives of NMMC & CIDCO were present for the meeting. They explained their positions vis-a-vis the issues pertaining to the Airoli environment.

Video shooting was carried out during site visits on 15-04-05 & 9-05-05. Two CDs were prepared; same were displayed on 16-05-05 at HQ, during the 4th meeting of the Committee.

4. DELIBERATIONS:

Minutes of all the meetings held are presented here. The same are self explanatory as indication of deliberations.

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April, 2005:

In response to the letter of Hon'ble Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, MLA dated 4/2/2005, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board constituted a committee vide Office Order No. E-19/2005 dated 24/2/2005. The first meeting of the said committee was held at Conference Room, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sion, Mumbai on 4/4/2005.

The following members have attended the meeting:

- 1) Dr. S.B. Chaphekar
- 2) Dr. A.R. Supate
- 3) Mr. D.M. Choukhande
- 4) Mr. S.S. Doke
- 5) Mr. N. Sadasivan