

THE INDIAN EXPRESS 'DEATH BY BREATH' SERIES SPURS CIVIC BODY INTO ACTION TO CLEAR MUMBAI'S DIRTY AIR

BMC to install sensor-based units to monitor hyperlocal data

While the cost of a CAAQMS varies between Rs 1.3 crore and Rs 1.5 crore, sensor-based monitors come for Rs 50,000 & measure localised data

PRATIPACHARYA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

THE BRIHANMUMBAI Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to expand its air quality monitoring stations by installing sensor-based monitoring units. At present, there are 21 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in the city, as shown in the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) dashboard.

The Indian Express on October 19 started its series 'Death By Breath', which highlighted the growing menace of air pollution in Mumbai and showed how man-made factors like construction and open burning of garbage are the key contributors. In one of the reports, the Indian Express pointed out how Mumbai has only 21 air quality monitoring stations, which is less than one-third of the recommendations given by NCAAP.

The state government's Department of Environment and Climate Change also on October 27 asked the Urban Local Bodies to expand their system of air quality monitoring. Out of the 21 CAAQMS operational in Mumbai, 12 are operated by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), while nine are maintained by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) along with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

A senior official from the civic body's environment department told the Indian Express, "We are working towards installing sensor-based AQI monitoring units in several places across the city. This will give us hyperlocal data that will help us in identifying some of the key issues that pertain to Mumbai's drop in AQI".

Sensor-based monitoring units measure the suspended particulate matters in the air by using laser-based sensors. This laser sensor analyses the pollutants that get trapped in the air chamber of the devices.

The CAAQMS system is a continuous process of air quality assessment, in which the trapped particulate matters are computed by measuring their weight or the amount of dust collected in a filter paper set up in one of the inlets.

While the cost of a CAAQMS varies between Rs 1.3 crore and Rs 1.5 crore, sensor-based monitors come for Rs 50,000. The latter is mainly used for generating

localised data.

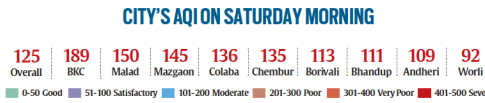
A network of sensor-based monitoring units is being treated Bihar and Uttar Pradesh jointly with IT - Kanpur. "In Mumbai there are issues like garbage burning and industrial emissions that adds to worsening AQI. These have been instructed by the state government to monitor the AQI of the city at a very hyper-local level. The Union ministry is also following this issue pretty closely," the official said.

Also, in latest guidelines for Mumbai Air Pollution Action Plan (MAMP), the BMC has mandated that all the AQI monitoring units should be installed in all the construction sites where civil works is being carried out. "We have been instructed by the state government to monitor the AQI of the city at a very hyper-local level. The Union ministry is also following this issue pretty closely," the official said.

Civic officials said that on October 20, a team of officials were sent to UP, to understand the sensor-based monitoring system deployed there. Earlier, in 2022, the BMC also carried out a pilot project of these sensors; however, despite a successful pilot the BMC didn't go forward with the project.

Professor Sachida Nand Tripathi from IIT-Kanpur, who is spearheading the project of setting up sensor-based systems in UP and Bihar, told the Indian Express, "Earlier there used to be only 35 CAAQMS in entire Bihar. Therefore there was a huge gap in the data collection system. Today, we have installed 530 sensor-based systems in the entire state and this is getting us a much more holistic data about how certain local factors like construction, vehicular emission and industrial activities are contributing to poor AQI. Based on these data points, actions are being taken and policies are being framed to protect the air shed".

Ronak Sutaria, founder of Respire Living India, told the Indian Express that in Mumbai there are multiple factors that contribute to the city's worsening AQI. "Suppose garbage is burnt in a particular spot in eastern suburbs, it will not affect people living in the western suburbs or in South Mumbai. However, localised air monitoring can identify the source of emission immediately and enable authorities to take action. Air is flowing throughout the city and to tackle the quality of air in Mumbai we will be needing localised data to counter the overall issue," Sutaria said.



Water to be sprinkled on Shivaji Park ground daily

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

AFTER RESIDENTS living in Shivaji Park in Dadar complained about the red dust in the air, civic officials said it will carry out water sprinkling on Shivaji Park ground daily.

Civic officials said they are making use of the 35 ring wells which can spray around 200,000 litres of water daily on the ground. Officials said the process of suppressing the dust has already begun. Besides this, the civic administration is also focusing on increasing greenery in the park. "We are also in the process of appointing experts who would guide the civic body to resolve this issue of dust pollution," an official said.

Officials said that after Mahanavami Diwas on December 6, which is the death anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, the BMC will focus on implementing measures to curb dust pollution. "On this day, devotees from several parts of the state and country visit Shivaji Park to pay homage to Dr Ambedkar. At present,

we are working towards making arrangements for this day soon after which other available solutions for dust mitigation will also be implemented," the official said. "The process will involve collective efforts of multiple department, including environment, building construction, rainwater harvesting, and heritage preservation, that will work towards adapting a cleaner environment for residents," he added.

Meanwhile, the BMC P/Nord ward, which covers Malad, Manori, Goral and Marve in the western suburbs, has written to the transport commissioner seeking to take action against 50 vehicles by cancelling their registration. Civic officials have attached a list of number plates of these vehicles and asked the transport department to take immediate action.

"These vehicles were not following the rules of construction and debris dumping that are present in the current municipal by-laws. We have imposed a penalty of Rs 20,000 on each of them, however these vehicles continue to operate," an official said.

Aaditya slams BMC: Guidelines on paper, no action on ground

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

SENA (UBT) leader and MLA, Aaditya Thackeray, on Saturday said that guidelines issued by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to combat air pollution is identical to the one issued in March this year, but no action was ever taken.

"The guideline is exactly the same as it was in March. What has changed since? The main source of air pollution is dust. Absolutely no effort has been made to control dust from construction sites in the city. Guidelines are on paper only, no action has been taken on ground," said Thackeray, questioning as to whether any stop-work notices or fines were issued by BMC on contractors as per guidelines.

PRATIPACHARYA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

AFTER THE Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued guidelines on Wednesday to abate dust and air pollution in Mumbai, the state government's department of environment and climate change has also issued its own set of guidelines.

The Indian Express on October 19 started its series 'Death By Breath' which highlighted the growing menace of air pollution in Mumbai and underlined how man-made factors like construction and open burning of garbage are some of the key contributors.

In one of the reports from this series, Express had pointed out how Mumbai has only 21 air quality monitoring stations, which is less than one-third of the recommendations given by NCAAP, following which the state government and Union ministry took stock of the city's deteriorating AQI. Earlier this week, the Union ministry had also written to the state showing concern about the city's deteriorating AQI levels.

The state's guidelines, underlined by Pravin Darade, principal secretary of the environment department, was issued on October 27 and in the list of guidelines the state government has asked all the urban local bodies of the cities to increase the number of their air quality monitoring stations. "Non-attainment of air quality standards, when demanded by the state government's guidelines read,

"The guidelines also said that people working at the construction sites should wear protective gears.

The guidelines also of open garbage burning. "There shall be complete ban

on open burning anywhere especially garbage dumping grounds and possible sites of trash burning," stated the state government. The guidelines stated that special squads should be deployed in every ward and taluka and each squad should be headed by a senior officer.

"These squads shall visit the premises and video-graph the work site. It is observed that these work sites aren't adhering to stated conditions, thus stringent actions like issuing 'stop work' notice or sealing the site would be done immediately," the guidelines read.

Furthermore, the state government has also mandated installation of sprinklers, fogging machines at all the construction sites, within one month after the guidelines are issued, and have also directed that any structure that is being demolished should be covered with tarpaulin sheets.

The government's guidelines also state that vehicles carrying construction debris should be covered and their wheels must be washed every time they leave and enter a site.

"It shall be ensured that daily cleaning is carried out of all major roads for removal of dust by vacuum cleaning, water sprinkling, brushing and sweeping," the government's guidelines read.

"The transport department shall take action against overloading of vehicles, uncovered vehicles and spillage of construction items on roads and public places," it said. The state government also stated that all the roads should be provided with paved footpaths and direction should be issued to bakeries and eateries to convert their fuel from non-renewable and polluting sources to cleaner alternatives like PNG and eco-friendly fuel.

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

M/s. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Nhava, Tal. Uran, Dist. Raigad has submitted proposal for...
(a) Increase of crane rail span from 20 m to 30.50 m for berth length of 680 m.
(b) Increase of deck width of the berth by 15 m on land side.
(c) Up gradation and strengthening of existing 530 m berth and 150 m wharf.

The Public Hearing is proposed to be conducted regarding environmental and social impact projects as per the EIA report submitted by MoEFCC, dated 14/09/2006 (As amended on 01/12/2009) issued by MoEFCC. All persons including bonafide residents, project affected citizens, environmental groups and others located near the project site, can participate in the public hearing. Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public can be filed at the following address in writing within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sl.No	Venue	Date and Time
1.	Bahadureshwa Sabhagraha, Sector - 02, J.N.P.T colony, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Tal. Uran, Dist. Raigad	1/12/2023 12:00 Noon

- Copies of the executive summary containing the salient features of the project both in English and Marathi and EIA report, are available at the following offices:
- District Collector Office, Alibag, Dist. Raigad.
 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag.
 - General Manager, Industrial Department, Dist. - Raigad, Alibag.
 - Sub-Divisional Officer, Panvel, Dist. Raigad.
 - Tahasildar, Tahasil Office, Uran, Tal. Uran, Dist. Raigad.
 - Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Tal. Uran, Dist. Raigad.
 - Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, 7th Floor, Rajgad Bhavan, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai.
 - Joint Director (WPC), M.P.C. Board, Kalpatara point, 3rd & 4th floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-22.
 - Director, Environment Department, & Chief, Chemical Department Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
 - Regional Office, MoEF, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (WG2), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
 - Chief Officer, Nagar Parishad, Uran, Dist. Raigad.
 - Gram Panchayat Offices: Sonari, Jaskhar, Dongri, Funde, Sheva, Hanuman Kolwadva, Panje.
 - Group Grampanchayat Gharapur, Karal, Nhava.

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2	Staff Nurse Grade-I	B	Level-8	57
3	Medical Social Worker	B	Level-7	1
4	Assistant (NS)	B	Level-6	1
5	Librarian Grade-II	B	Level-6	1
6	Technical Assistant/Technician	B	Level-6	1
7	Stores Keeper	B	Level-6	2
8	Hostel Warden	B	Level-6	2
9	PA to Principal	B	Level-6	1
10	Lab Technician	C	Level-5	8
11	Stenographer	C	Level-4	1
12	Cashier	C	Level-4	2
13	Lab Attendant Grade-II	C	Level-2	8
14	Library Attendant Grade-II	C	Level-3	1
15	LDC (Lower Division Clerk)	C	Level-2	1
16	Hospital Attendant Grade-III (Nursing Orderly)	C	Level-1	40
Total Posts				142

For more details regarding eligibility, reservation, experience etc. Kindly visit to the official website of AIIMS Gorakhpur. <https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in/> Candidates are also advised to visit Institute website, for any updates in this regard.

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