

Timeline

1975: Increase in industrial activities led to a rise in air and water pollution in Mumbai.

1976: The BMC established the Air Pollution Prevention Cell under City Engineer. The cell consisted of Air Pollution Cell, Emission Inventory Group, Scientist-In-Charge with a full-fledged Air Quality Monitoring Research Laboratory (AQMRL) complete and proposed a team of doctors to study the health effects of air pollution in Mumbai. This was later renamed as Environment Section.

1994: Following the 74th amendment of the Indian Constitution (1992), the Maharashtra State Government amended the Municipal Corporation Act- 1888, in 1994, making “environment protection, promotion of ecology, and urban forestry” an obligatory duty under section 61 (ab) of the MMC Act.

Section 63B of the Municipal corporation act mandates the preparation and submission of an Environmental Status Report (ESR) to the Corporation every year before July 31st.

2004: The post of Deputy Municipal Commissioner (DMC) for Environment and Waste Management was established and the Solid Waste Management (SWM) department was assigned to this post.

2012: The DMC role was split into two: DMC (SWM)-Non-technical and DMC (Environment)-Technical.

2020-2021: BMC joined the Race to Zero campaign and initiated the proposal for preparing the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP) to limit temperature rise below 1.5°C.

The BMC also received funding under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve air quality from the Government of India (GoI).

2022: The BMC launched the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP), and the implementation of the MCAP was added to the responsibility of the Environment Department.

2022- 2024: Revamping of the Environment and Climate Change Department was approved by the Post Creation Committee on March 27. New positions were created, including Chief Engineer (M&E) Environment & Climate Change, 2 Deputy Chief Engineers (Environment & Climate Change), 1 Deputy Municipal Architect, 2 Senior Architects, and 35 Sub Engineers (Environment & Climate Change), totaling 41 new posts. Twenty-four Sub Engineers will be deputed to each ward to address environment protection and improvement issues.

Additionally, existing staff comprising of 2 Executive Engineers, 2 Assistant Engineers, and 3 Sub Engineers were transferred from SWM department to the Environment and Climate Change department, along with AQRML staff.