



Environmental Management Centre



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## Report of Proceedings

### **ECO EXPO at Ishaan Srushti, Warje Pune March 5 & 6, 2005**

#### Saturday, March 5, 2005



The inauguration event was launched by renowned actor and an ardent nature lover, *Milind Gunaji*. He also released the Citizen's ECO Guide developed by the Environmental Management Centre (EMC), Pune. Hard copies of this Citizen's ECO Guide will be made available through Belvalkar Housing and soft copies will be placed for downloading at EMC's website [www.emcentre.com](http://www.emcentre.com)



*Sameer Belvalkar* of Belvalkar Housing Schemes Pvt. Ltd. presented their vision in developing *Ishaan Srushti* complex on eco principles such as climate responsive design, resource conservation and recycling. He also pledged full support to community citizens' action in improving the face of the localities where his housing schemes are currently standing.



On behalf of EMC, *Rahul Datar* presented a vision of transforming Pune into an *Eco-city* through initiatives such as *Eco-Housing*, *Eco-lifestyles* and motivated Community Action through institutional mechanisms such as *Advanced Locality Management (ALMs)*. *The EConnection Hub*, an initiative of EMC, was discussed by *Anagha Paranjape* of EMC. The audience was urged to use the platform and support of the EConnection

Hub to initiate community action for the environment.

Later, *Milind Gunaji* presented an enchanting slide show for the event. The slide show was based on his various nature adventure treks and tours across Maharashtra. He stressed the importance of nature conservation and solid waste management and talked about his experiences of littered forts during his adventure touring.



*The EXPO stalls* on display gave exposure to visitors about technology options such as solar thermal systems for flat holders, sewage recycling plants in housing societies etc. The EXPO event was conducted between 17:00 to 20:00 hrs and more than 150 residents attended and visited the stalls.

The EConnection Hub stall was put up by EMC to allow one on one interaction with the citizens to seek possible avenues of how the citizens and the EConnection Hub can work together for the environment.

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#### **EConnection Hub**

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## Sunday March 6, 2005

On Sunday, March 6, 2005 a seminar event to introduce the concept of Advanced Locality Management (ALM) was hosted. *Seema Redkar*, ALM Officer, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and *Mr. and Mrs. Nusrat Khatri*, ALM coordinators were invited from Mumbai to present their experiences and allow sharing of perspectives.

The participants to this seminar event were representatives of the various housing schemes built by Belvalkar Housing in Pune. More than 35 residents attended with enthusiastic participation of women in this seminar. The seminar was conducted between 18:00 to 20:00 hrs at the *Ishaan Srushti*, Warje.



The ALM concept and successes in Mumbai were discussed by Seema Redkar. She talked about the inception of ALMs in Mumbai which were initiated for resolving community solid waste problems. She then briefed how the ALMs are now taking up other civic and community issues to improve and enhance their quality of life.

Seema Redkar gave an excellent orientation to issues and challenges in *vermicomposting*. Later, she visited the *Ishaan Srushti* premises and was pleased to see the vermicompost pits. She stressed the importance of people coming together to solve community problems.



Mr. and Mrs. Khatri, coordinators of an ALM in Kandivili, Mumbai shared their experiences in their newly formed ALM, the hurdles they faced and the challenges they overcame during the working of their ALMs. They motivated the participants to act and be persistent in their efforts towards a clean and green community that they achieved within a mere 3-4 months in their locality.



The citizens took active part in the discussions in this event. Questions were raised regarding the partnership between citizen groups and the Municipal Corporation. A keen desire was expressed on forming ALMs in Pune and establishing a working synergistic relationship between citizens and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

As next steps, EConnection Hub promised full support to the representatives of the housing societies who wished to form ALMs towards addressing environmental issues prevalent within and around their respective localities. Support was considered in the form of one-to-one counseling, offering training of technical topics and interfacing ALMs with other catalytic institutions.

For more information on these events and to know more on EConnection Hub, please contact *Ms Anagha Paranjape* at EMC, Pune (*Mobile 98220 13405*)

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