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CIDCO transfers over 2,000 acres mangrove land to Maharashtra forest department

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Maharashtra government's town planning authority, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), has transferred around 2,244 acres of land under mangroves to the forest department of the state government.

Out of the total land parcels, nearly 690 acres of land is in the possession of CIDCO, and it has given no objection to the balance of 1,554 acres in the CIDCO area under mangroves. The remaining land covered by mangroves is private, and hence, needs no objection.

Maharashtra's minister of environment Aditya Thackeray, in the meeting held on April 18, gave instructions to CIDCO regarding the transfer of this land under the mangrove to the forest department.

The move to transfer the land covered by mangroves will support the government's efforts towards environmental protection, conservation initiatives and sustainable development.

Around 3,603 acres of area covered by mangroves in Thane that falls under the CIDCO possession has already been transferred to the state government's forest department earlier.

So far, CIDCO has handed over 3,108 acres of mangrove lands in Panvel and Uran districts, and with this, CIDCO has completed the process of handing over all mangrove lands in Navi Mumbai. The town planning body has now become the only government organisation and public sector undertaking to hand over such large pieces of mangrove land.

While planning Navi Mumbai, which was conceived to be the satellite city of the country's financial capital, CIDCO had kept about 40% of the area reserved for green cover, including gardens, playgrounds, and no development zones.

In order to protect and preserve the mangrove forests in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the concerned government agencies and authorities were asked to transfer the mangrove forest areas under their jurisdiction to the mangrove cell of the forest department.

Mangroves play an important role in preventing the flooding of residential areas during heavy monsoons and storms and significantly reduce soil erosion in the coastal areas. These mangrove forests are also home to a large number of species of animals, birds, and aquatic life.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/cidco-transfers-over-2000-acres-mangrove-land-to-maharashtra-forest-department/articleshow/91860083.cms>