2. **Regional Setting**

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region extends over an area of 4355 sq. km and comprises Municipal Corporations of Greater Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Navi Mumbai and Ulhasnagar; 15 municipal towns; 7 non-municipal urban centers; and 995 villages. Its administrative limits cover Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban Districts, and parts of Thane and Raigad District. There are 40 Planning Authorities in the Region that are responsible for the micro-level planning of the different areas.

![Figure 1: Mumbai Metropolitan Region](image)

The Region as a whole is a low land, lying on the west of Sayhadri hill ranges. It has a varied landscape that is marked by a series of north-south hill ridges in the central and eastern part. Their step-like terraces and layered appearance is characteristic of the Deccan lava country,
which is formed by successive layers of basalt flows. Its river system consists of 5 major rivers that, along with their numerous tributaries, drain the region into the Arabian sea. They are also important sources of water for the Region. The Region has a 167 km long coastline that is highly indented by estuaries, bays and creeks. The coastal belt in the North and south are famous for their coastal plantations, beaches and hamlets that have great-scenic value. Wetlands occupy vast area of land along the coast. They consist of mud flats, marshes and mangroves.

The climatic condition in the Region especially in the summer are oppressive because of the high temperature associated with high humidity. Winters are relatively pleasant. Monsoon brings in heavy rain that averages about 2000 mm. per annum. Very heavy rains with intensity of 250 mm in 24 hours are not uncommon.

Mumbai has a peculiar geography a narrow wedge-shaped land surrounded by waters on three sides has for decades dictated its spatial growth. While the early growth of Mumbai took place in the south near the port, it spread northwards along the suburban rail corridors. Till 1968, most of the Region's urban growth was confined to Greater Mumbai’s municipal limits through it had begun to occur in Thane, Kalyan and surrounding areas beyond Greater Mumbai.

The urban sprawl study indicates that in the post 1968 period along with Mumbai’s suburbs, the growth occurred in Thane, Kalyan, Mira-Bhayander, Navi Mumbai and Vasai-Virar areas. This led to increase in the built-up area from 234 sq.km. in 1968 to 575 sq.km. in 1987.

The urban built-up area of the Region accounts for about 12 percent of the Region’s total area. Most of this growth has taken place by conversion of agricultural land or by reclamation of wetlands. Despite rapid urban sprawl of the past few decades, agriculture still accounts for the largest landuse in the Region accounting for 42 percent of its area. About 26 percent of the Region’s area is covered by forestlands, which are relatively well protected.