



GIS for Sustainable Industrial Development

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Abstract:

The development process in India has been characterised by growing industrialisation. During the Eleventh Plan (2007 to 2012), it has been projected that, individually, industry and manufacturing will have to grow at an average annual rate of 9.8% to achieve an average growth rate of 9% per annum in GDP. As is well known, environmental risks are associated with various facets of industrialisation. In the background of continuously deteriorating environmental conditions and an increasing global demand for limited natural resources, demand for improved environmental performance and resource efficiency is growing world-wide. “Sustainable Industrial Development” is the solution for countries like India to keep pace with the industrialisation needs while protecting and minimising risks to the environmental resources and the human habitation. The approach should include shifting from measures reacting to acute environmental damage to proactive strategies for action that will ensure sustainability. Though the task appears complex due to the wide variety of parameters to be considered, the planning of sustainable industrial development could be simplified with the modern tools and techniques. GIS is a tried and tested tool in hand. The tool has been widely used in different countries for state, regional and urban planning and also introduced in India under the Zoning Atlas Programme. The presentation will highlight the relevance of GIS applications for achieving sustainable industrial development and the role in reducing risks and vulnerability.