

Will get consultant for rehab: Metro MD

The Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro rail has been in news recently for protests on issues ranging from protecting the environment to rehabilitation to cancellation of stations and even shortening of the alignment. dna's Ateeq Shaikh talks to Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation's managing director Ashwini Bhide on the planned corridor.

How have the protests affected the project?

The timeline has remained unaffected because we are still working on the tendering process and are yet to award bids. We will not be taking the entire Colaba Woods during the construction phase, it is only some portion of the garden and it will be restored later on. On the Aarey car depot issue, the first meeting has been held by the CM-appointed commit-

tee and they will soon come up with the report.

Any alternatives to Aarey Milk Colony for a car depot?

I will not comment on as a committee is already looking into the matter.

Q & A

Ashwini Bhide

In Mahim too there are buildings that would be affected due to metro

construction, will they too be given houses in the same area?

There are very few structures in Mahim. These buildings already have plans to go for redevelopment.

Will these redeveloped buildings have to pay 'development charge' as they are in the vicinity of metro stations?

That's a policy decision which may be taken at a later stage, but there is no such plan at this juncture.

Are there plans to appoint a consultant?

A consultant will be appointed to examine how much area will be available after construction is over and if it is possible to have housing in a single or multiple clusters.

Metro Man E Sreedharan spoke about the states's

ineptitude for not having discussed the project with the people.

The project and its alignment particularly have been in the public domain since 2012. Concerns were not raised by public earlier, but now they have gone viral. In Mumbai, people are aware about their rights and raise concerns. The project is still at the planning stage and discussions are done during this stage itself.

Though the plan shows utilising open spaces for the metro, there are roads too that will be blocked.

Huge planning has gone into it with the Mumbai Traffic Police. We have prepared a traffic management plan so that people have least possible inconvenience.

