

Metro-3 on right track, work on tunnels may start in Dec

PROJECT STATUS Contracts to build tunnels for the Colaba-Andheri-Seepz line will be given in September



HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: With contracts for construction of tunnels for Metro-3 — the city's first underground metro which will be run on the Colaba-Andheri-Seepz route — set to be given out in September, the work on the project is likely to start by December.

The project will provide connectivity between the island city and western suburbs. "We will finish the technical evaluation of bids by mid-September. The contracts will be awarded subsequently," said Ashwini Bhide, chairman, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC).

In May this year, nine consortia had submitted bids for the con-

CITY'S FIRST UNDERGROUND METRO

The Rs23,136-crore project is being developed on cash contract basis with financial assistance from a Japanese bank.

It will pass through areas such as Nariman Point, Cuffe Parade, Worli, BKC, Airport, which are not connected by any suburban rail service

Capacity: 14 lakh commuters in 2020, 17 lakh by 2030

Affected private properties: 67

Buildings to be demolished in Girgaum, Kalbadevi: 26

Trees to be cut: 3071; 2298 in Aarey Colony and 773 along the corridor

Plots to be used for metro: 15 owned by the BMC and 18 owned by the state

Travel time between Cuffe Parade and Airport will reduce from the existing 100 minutes by car to 50 minutes



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UPS MADAN, MMRDA commissioner

struction of 33.5-km twin tunnels and 26 underground stations for Metro-3. The MMRC has divided the Rs11,000-crore civil works into seven phases, each comprising 4-6km long tunnel and a few stations. One firm can handle only

one phase. It can get another phase if its capacity is double than the criteria set by the MMRC.

The Metro corporation wants contractors to use special tunnelling machines with certain specifications to avoid glitches.

MMRDA commissioner UPS Madan, who heads the state-appointed panel on proposed Metro depot on Aarey plot, said they will submit a report on the issue to the government soon. The committee is learnt to have found

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seven alternative plots, where the depot can be shifted. "The state will decide the site for the depot," Madan said, while unveiling a new logo for MMRCA on Monday.

Meanwhile, Bhide said the plan for resettlement and rehabilitation of the project-affected people from Girgaum and Kalbadevi will be finalized in five months. "We will appoint a consultant in 15 days. The consultant will have to come up with R&R plan in four months," Bhide said.

Bhide said the tenders for rehabilitation of political parties, whose offices in south Mumbai will be razed for Metro work, will be reissued, as the rates quotes in the earlier tenders were high.