

Mumbaikars can look forward to smooth commute and connectivity as the much-awaited rail, road and sea projects spread from south to north and east to west finally open up to the public in the New Year

INFRA BONANZA FOR CITY IN '23

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2 023 promises to be a landmark year for the city's transportation sector. The reason: Three Metro lines, Mumbai Trans-Harbour Line (MTHL), BEST's double-decker electric buses, water taxis and new flyovers will open up to Mumbaikars.

For starters, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has already completed work on Phase 2 of Line 2A (Dahanukarwadi-D N Nagar) and Line 7 (Aarey to Andheri East).

A senior MMRDA official said, "We are ready to begin commercial runs as soon as we receive approvals from the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS)."

Phase I of both these lines (Aarey-Dahisar-Dahanukarwadi) opened in April 2022.

Metropolitan commissioner SVR Srinivas said, "The opening of these two lines will bring a huge relief to residents of the western suburbs. They will also connect the Metro 1 (Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar) corridor."

Another line that will be opened up is Phase I of the Metro 3 underground corridor between Aarey and BKC.

A senior Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) official said, "We are confident of completing all the major works by July and then trials will begin. We are hopeful of opening the line by December 2023."

Motorists too can expect a smoother ride as another iconic project—Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Road—is slated to open in a year.

Srinivas said, "At present, almost 86% of the work is complete on the corridor that links Sewri and Nhava Seva."

Likewise, MMRDA will open the SCLR connector that will link LBS Road in the eastern suburbs with Western Express Highway and Chheda Nagar improvement junction.

Among BEST offerings, a new fleet of noiseless, electric double-decker buses will be launched this year. In the first phase, around 50 e-buses will

METRO LINES, MTHL, SCLR, WATER TAXIS, E-DOUBLE-DECKERS.. THE LIST IS LONG

METRO LINE 2A

CORRIDOR | Dahisar East to D N Nagar

LENGTH | 18.6km (fully elevated)

TOTAL STATIONS | 17

Andheri (West), Lower Oshiwara, Oshiwara, Goregaon (West), Pahadi Goregaon, Lower Malad, Malad (West), Valnai, Dahanukarwadi, Kandivli (West), Pahadi Eksar, Borivali (West), Eksar, Mandapeshwar, Kandarpada, Anand Nagar and Dahisar (East)

COMPLETION COST | ₹6,410cr

DAILY RIDERSHIP | 6.1L by 2031

METRO LINE 7

CORRIDOR | Andheri to Dahisar

Length | 16.5km (fully elevated along Western Express highway)

Depot | Chakop

Total stations | 13

Gundavali, Mogra, Jogeshwari (East), Goregaon (East), Aarey, Dindoshi, Kurar, Akurli, Poisar, Magathane, Devipada, Rashtriya Udyan and Ovaripada



COMPLETION COST | ₹6,208cr

DAILY RIDERSHIP | 6.7L by 2031

Rolling stock | 6 coaches in each train

Expected ridership after commissioning of Phase II | 6.7 lakh

METRO 3

PHASE I | Aarey to BKC

Length | 12km

Stations | Aarey, Seepz, MIDC, Marol Naka, CSIA International airport, Sahar Road, CSIA Domestic airport, Santacruz, Vidya Nagari, BKC



E-DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES

Electric double-deckers expected | 700-900

Features

- 2 staircases to ensure smooth movement of passengers while boarding or alighting
- Good suspension, CCTV camera, electronic indicators
- Some to be fitted with tap-in, tap-out facility for digital ticketing
- Fare affordable at min ₹6 for a 5km journey

hit the roads from January 14. This will not only augment the carrying capacity and reduce your wait at bus stops, but also fill up the void created by phasing out of several double-deckers in the past, said BEST general

manager Lokesh Chandra.

The existing fleet of 45 diesel-run double-deckers will be phased out completely by June 2023.

The first lot of 200 double-deckers are being provided by Switch Mobili-

ty, which will arrive in the fleet by mid-2023, the first 50 in January. A total of 900 e-double deckers are being procured by BEST on wet lease.

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