

24 lines over 487km by 2041. But where's land for depots?

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During a recent meeting at the Chief Minister's War Room, the issue of land for Metro car sheds was brought up as the first priority. Officials say that the delay in implementing Metro projects in Mumbai is due to the unavailability of land for car sheds, which are a crucial component for any Metro line to operate. It is the revenue department that is responsible for making land available.

Currently, three Metro lines are in operation in Mumbai: Line 1 (Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar),



The trains will initially run with human drivers, before automation sets in

Line 2A (Dahisar to DN Nagar in Andheri-West), and Line 7 (Dahisar to Gundavali in Andheri-East). Line 2A and 7 share a com-

mon car shed at Malwani. A 102-hectare Kanjurmarg plot, which was designated for three Metro car sheds (Lines 3, 4, and 6), is caught up in controversy. Work on the Line 3 car shed initially began at Aarey Colony, but was stopped after a tree-cutting controversy, in the wake of which Kanjurmarg was studied as an alternative. But the Line 3 car shed site was ultimately relocated to Aarey, while there is no certainty for Lines 4 and 6.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has proposed 24 Metro lines spanning 487km to be commissioned by 2041 at an estimated cost of Rs 2.2 lakh

crore in its Comprehensive Transport Study (CTS) 2021. The study also estimates that expanding the suburban railway will cost Rs 98,000 crore. However, the goal of commissioning 18 Metro lines (323 km) by 2026, as stated in CTS 2021, may be challenging to achieve given the constraints on the ground. The report notes that 193 km of Mumbai's Metro network is currently under construction, and the government would need to spend Rs 1.5 lakh crore for all the 18 Metro lines to become operational by 2026. All the proposed lines are in the Mumbai-Thane-Navi Mumbai belt.

According to the study, the

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Mumbai Region's population is estimated to reach 24 million by 2031 and 32.2 million by 2041.

Mumbai will continue to be the most populous city in the region, with 13.1 million people by 2031 and 12.8 million by 2041. The re-

port also projects that Mumbai will provide the maximum employment, with 7 million jobs by 2031 and 7.04 million by 2041.

The study estimates that daily passenger travel by Metro/Mono will reach approximately 11 million by 2031 and 12.4 million by 2041, while daily passenger travel by suburban railway is set to decline to approximately 6 million by 2031 from 8 million in 2017, and rise to 6.5 million by 2041. Commuting to offices will account for the maximum trips by Metro, along with car, two-wheeler, taxi, and train, while auto and bus will be used predominantly for commuting to schools and colleges.