

BMC to hand over 17 plots for Metro-3

HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will hand over 7,796 sqm of land parcels to the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) for construction of the fully underground Metro-3.

The proposal to hand over these 17 plots on a permanent basis was passed in the civic improvements committee on Wednesday. The MMRCL will pay the civic body Rs287 crore for a period of 30 years. At the end of the tenure, the lease will be considered for renewal. The rent will also be charged according to the prevalent market rates of that time.

The plots include the garden at Captain Prakash Pethe Marg in Cuffe Parade, the garden opposite Siddhivinayak Mandir in Prabhadevi, a traffic island at Dadar's Gokhale Road and the garden behind Hutatma Chowk, among others.

"The plots will be handed over on a permanent basis to the MMRCL for the construction of entry and exit points, areas for ventilation shafts, etc. The plots are scattered across the city and we are utilizing only 0.78 hectares on a permanent basis," said Ashwini Bhide, managing director, MMRCL.



THE PROPOSAL TO HAND OVER THESE 17 PLOTS ON A PERMANENT BASIS WAS PASSED IN THE CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY

Chetan Kadam, MNS corporator and improvements committee member, said, "We have demanded complete rehabilitation for people who will be affected by the project."

Last year, the BMC had passed a proposal to hand over 14 plots on an 11-month lease for a period of five years at a price of Re1. However, corporators objected to the proposal in March, as they demanded the plots be given on market rate, and not on nominal rates.

Metro fare hike: SC won't interfere with HC order

HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday refused to interfere with the Bombay high court's (HC) interim order, staying the hike in fare for the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro line.

A bench comprising justices MY Eqbal and Arun Mishra asked the Metro operator—Reliance Infra-led Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd (MMOPL)—to approach the high court. Currently, the MMOPL is charging fare in the Rs10-Rs40 range. It had decided to increase the fare further by Rs5 in November, based on the recommendations of the

fare fixation committee (FFC), which has allowed an increase in fare to Rs110.

Subsequently, the state government, which already had filed a writ petition in the Bombay high court, took up the matter with the court, which then passed the interim order staying the decision until the final hearing in the case.

Following this, the MMOPL filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court against the high court's interim order.

The SC on Wednesday made it clear it was not going to hear the plea filed against the interim order and rather requested the high court to hear the matter as early as possible.