

Metro's land takeover is for good cause: Experts

Heritage Remains A Concern

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Mumbai: Experts see the BMC's acceptance of Metro rail's need for about 7,800 square metres of open space as an attempt to strike a balance between development and the environment. A mass transit system like the Metro will help the environment by seeking to reduce vehicular traffic and thus pollution and congestion, the experts feel.

The civic improvements committee on Wednesday cleared a proposal to permanently hand over 7,796 square metres of land (0.78 hectares) across the city for the construction of the Metro rail's third line. The area, in all about an eleventh of Oval Maidan, is spread over 17 locations along the proposed 33.5km Colaba-Bandra-Seepz route. The route will be fully underground and have 27 stations. The land parcels are required for the construction of ventilation shafts, station entry/exit canopies, electric substations and fire exits.

In return, the BMC will get Rs 250 crore. For the project, the BMC will also give, temporarily, 5.39 hectares of land.

Ashwini Bhide, managing director, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), said Mumbai's existing transport system carries more people than capacity. "The third Metro line will be of great benefit, especially as there is no suburban railway corridor along the route. Because of the route, business dis-

GREEN-FRIENDLY SPACE SACRIFICE

Land BMC will give for Metro rail's Colaba-Bandra-Seepz line

On permanent basis | **0.78** hectares (comparison: Oval maidan's area is 9 hectares)

On temporary basis | **5.39** hectares

Shriram Vernekar

Land other agencies will give

Mhada
0.415

hectares

Railways
0.67

hectares

> Land will be procured in Palghar and Thane for construction-waste disposal



PROMINENT LOCATIONS

- > Garden at Captain Prakash Pethe Marg
- > Garden behind Hutatma Chowk
- > Open space near Eros Cinema, C'gate
- > Garden opposite Siddhivinayak temple, Prabhadevi
- > Traffic island at Gokhale Road, Dadar

Total locations

17

REASON FOR LAND NEED

The land is needed for the construction of ventilation shafts, entry/exit canopies and fire exits along the planned Metro corridor, which will be underground

Plant 3 trees for each 1 cut, HC tells BMC

The Bombay high court on Thursday directed the BMC to plant three trees for every one that is cut. The HC said it is "not satisfied with the steps taken" by the BMC to replant trees. It said the rapid decline in the city's tree cover is partly due to "inaction" by the BMC. It was hearing a PIL, filed by Kandivli resident Zoru Bathena, stating that 116 trees on a 2.5km stretch from Khar to Santacruz have died due to mealy bug infection. The BMC said it has replanted 322 trees in the area. But the HC said photographs show that the trees had been planted in a haphazard manner. TNN

tricts like BKC, Seepz and Nariman Point will have proper connectivity."

But several Shiv Sena corporators, especially former mayor Shraddha Jadhav, said heritage areas will have an impact. "I was concerned

that the land that the BMC will hand over is in areas like Hutatma Chowk. The chowk should not be affected in any way," said Jadhav. Bhide said only a portion of the garden close to the chowk will be taken over.