

# State urges HC to lift 20-yr stay on 100-acre plot for Metro III

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**Mumbai:** The state government has approached the Bombay high court seeking to start work for the Metro III project at Kanjurmarg and lift a two-decade-old stay on the development of 101.33 acres of land. While an earlier application by the state last year had sought around 135 acres for the project, it has said in a new application that it needs only 101.33 acres of the land that is locked in litigation. The application is scheduled to come up before a division bench of Justices Anoop Mohata and Girish Kulkarni.

Additional government pleader G W Mattos is representing the state in the matter. Besides listing the status quo order on the land for building the main Metro rail car depot, the state has urged the HC to al-

## AAREY LAND FOR STABLING YARD?

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) may need land at Aarey for its stabling yard even if it were to get the Kanjurmarg land for its main depot, said S Gupta, director (projects). "While we are yet to work out actual requirements for the stabling yard, it is estimated to be around 8-10 hectares," he said



low it to set up piers for the Jogeshwari-Kanjurmarg elevated Metro corridor and constructing the Central Business District metro station on 31,600 square metres of land.

The Mumbai Metro III project connecting Colaba-Bandra-Seepz is proposed to be operational by 2021 at a total cost Rs 23,136 crore and will connect

Nariman Point, BKC and the international airport. The project proposes to have eight cars with a capacity of 2,500 passengers on the route, carrying around 14 lakh passengers every day, and help reduce 3.73 lakh vehicles daily on the route. While the Colaba-Bandra-Seepz route would be underground, the state said it had de-

ecided to integrate Metro III with the Jogeshwari-Kanjurmarg elevated Metro project.

The state's plans for setting up the car shed, however, was stalled as the land has been stuck in a legal dispute since 1953. In 1997, HC restrained the state from allotting land to the tune of around 400 acres in Kanjurmarg to any person. Last year, the state filed an application to release 135 acres of the land from the stay order, which it has now modified after dropping the plan to construct a casting yard at Kanjurmarg. Urging HC for relief, the state said a delay would cause "loss, damage and prejudice to the state and a public project of urgency that is an important urban transport project meant to ameliorate the traffic woes of the citizens of Mumbai would be in jeopardy."