

Work on 4 infra projects to begin this year: CM

Chittaranjan.Tembhekar
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday set an ambitious target of beginning construction work for four major infrastructure projects of Mumbai this year: the Navi Mumbai airport, Nhava-Sewri sea link, Colaba-Seepz Metro and two elevated Metros in the western suburbs.

At a marathon review meeting at Mantralaya, Fadnavis told Cidco and MMRDA bosses that the bidder for the airport should be in place by March, while work should begin for the trans-harbour link by October-end. Mantralaya sources said he also wanted MMRDA to start

civil work for the Colaba-Bandra-Seepz metro from May

While the Navi Mumbai airport promises to reduce congestion at the existing airport, the sea link will decongest Mumbai by taking away transport, housing and business activities to Navi Mumbai across its eastern bay.

Senior officials said pre-development work, such as flattening of a hillock, shifting of high tension power cables and diversion of a river for the new airport, will start this month. Formal approval to the Japanese International Cooperation Agency to extend a loan for the Rs 11,000 crore trans-harbour link is likely to be issued by the Union finance ministry soon.