

PRESS NOTE

Expedite Pune's Ring Road and Metro Projects; Deputy Chief Minister Directs PMRDA

Review of PMRDA's functioning held at Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai

Mumbai: State Deputy Chief Minister and Guardian Minister of Pune District, Sunetra Ajit Pawar, directed the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) to expedite various development projects being implemented through the Authority and ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timelines. Against the backdrop of Pune's rapidly expanding urbanisation, she instructed the Authority to accord special priority to projects related to the Ring Road, Metro, road development and urban infrastructure.

She was speaking at a review meeting of various departments of PMRDA held at the Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai. Secretary to the Deputy Chief Minister's Office Rajesh Deshmukh, Deputy Secretary Vinayak Chavan, Joint Secretary Dr Navnath Jare, Under Secretaries of the Urban Development Department Ajaysingh Patil and Shivaji Chavan, Metropolitan Commissioner Dr Abhijeet Chaudhari, along with senior officials of the Authority, were present on the occasion.

A detailed presentation was made on Maharashtra's first Structural Plan during the meeting. The Metropolitan Commissioner also informed the meeting that the Town Planning Schemes (TP Schemes) falling within the limits of the Pune Municipal Corporation had been transferred to the Pune Municipal Corporation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), focus has been placed on six to seven major projects, and these projects will be completed soon, the Metropolitan Commissioner said.

The Deputy Chief Minister particularly appreciated PMRDA for achieving the feat of constructing a building at Sector 12 in just 95 days, as well as for the work carried out by the PMRDA Disaster Response Force (PDRF). She also specially commended the PDRF for its relief and rescue operations during the heavy rainfall in Maval taluka on July 6 and 7.

The Man-Hinjawadi to Shivajinagar Metro Line-3 project has received approval from the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for the 13.20-km Man-Balewadi section, and the service is expected to commence soon. Work on major projects such as the HCMTR and Inner Ring Road is also being undertaken through the establishment of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). Land acquisition for Chakan, Hinjawadi and the Inner Ring Road is currently underway, and the Deputy Chief Minister directed that the process be brought onto the fast track.

The Metropolitan Commissioner informed the meeting that efforts were also underway to commence work on the Pashan Ramp by December.

Under the Glass Skywalk project in the Tiger Point and Lion's Point areas of Lonavala, works such as roads, parking facilities, public toilets and water management are proposed to be undertaken on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is in its final stage. As the project is an important one, the Deputy Chief Minister sought details about it with keen interest and expressed confidence that, "From the tourism perspective, this will prove to be a highly beneficial project."

The Deputy Chief Minister directed that the conservation projects for the Indrayani, Pavana and Mula-Mutha rivers—all of which are highly important and have remained pending for a long time—be taken up on priority and expedited. She said that PMRDA's initiative to obtain resolutions from Gram Panchayats for sewage treatment projects (STPs) was appropriate.

She emphasised that the Pune International Exhibition and Convention Centre (PIECC) project should become financially self-sustaining. The objective is to develop the centre as a world-class exhibition facility under PMRDA, and instructions were given to initiate the process at the earliest for creating international-standard facilities. It was also directed that the sports turf projects at Sector 12 and Sector 3 be entrusted to reputed organisations for operation and management.

Instructions were also issued to complete, at the earliest, the construction of India's first POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Court being developed by PMRDA.

Concluding the meeting, Sunetra Pawar said, "Going forward, I will personally and regularly review all PMRDA projects to ensure balanced development of Pune city and the adjoining rural areas. All possible efforts will be made at the government level to resolve pending issues at the earliest."

Expedite PMRDA's Master Plan for Pune's Future!

PMRDA has a crucial role to play in the planned and comprehensive development of Pune district. Considering the growing geographical spread, population, industrialisation, urbanisation and tourism potential across PMRDA's jurisdiction, comprising 674 villages and approximately 5,215 sq. km, directions were issued to plan infrastructure with a long-term perspective.

Instructions were given to expedite various projects, including the Pune Inner Ring Road, projects proposed under the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), Hingangaon Bridge and Yavat Railway Bridge.

To strengthen the transportation system in Pune city and the PMRDA region, an integrated approach was advised towards multimodal hubs, industrial, religious and tourism connectivity, as well as connectivity to the airport.

Considering the increasing traffic congestion in the Man–Hinjawadi area, necessary action was directed to be taken on priority to complete the Man–Hinjawadi–Shivajinagar Pune Metro Line-3. Of the 23 stations on this corridor, work on 12 stations has been completed, while work on another five stations is in the final stage. Instructions were issued to accelerate the remaining works and work in coordination to bring the project into public service at the earliest.

Directions were also given to expedite projects aimed at preventing pollution of the Indrayani, Pavana, Mula and Mutha rivers.

It was emphasised that merely constructing projects is not sufficient; projects should be planned in a manner that ensures the concerned agencies and institutions are self-sustaining and financially viable, with adequate capacity to meet future maintenance, repair and operational costs.

Considering the growing population and future urban expansion in the PMRDA region, instructions were also issued to begin long-term drinking water planning from now itself. An integrated assessment should be undertaken of available water resources, distribution systems and future water requirements, taking into account the needs of new urban settlements, industrial areas, tourism destinations and the growing population.

Purushottam Sangle, Information and Public Relations Officer, PMRDA