

COASTAL ROAD PROJECT

'How much green space will citizens get?'

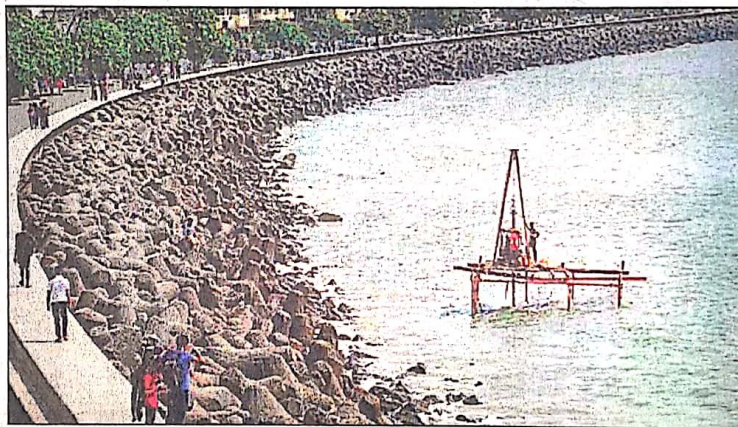
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MUMBAI: A week after the civic body approached the Supreme Court against the Bombay high court's (HC) stay on reclamation work between Worli Sea Face and the Worli end of the sea-link for the coastal road project, residents of Bhulabhai Desai Road have started flooding the civic body's e-mail inbox.

As part of the campaign, citizens have sent around 250 mails to the ID provided by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for inquiries about the project, seeking clarity on how much green space will be made available for the project.

The move comes after BMC denied activists' claim that there were discrepancies in the figures provided. City activist Zoru Bhatena said, "A letter, which contains the signature of the



■ The Bombay HC restrained the civic body from carrying out further reclamation for the coastal road project last month. HT FILE

project's chief engineer and states that 70 hectares will be made available as green space, has been sent to the Ministry of Environment. However, another piece of information on the civic portal states that 15.5% would be dedicated to open spaces, which amounts to 14 hectares."

A member of the citizens'

group Save Our Coast said, "A press release by the BMC says the information that we are circulating is false, and if anyone wants the correct information, they should drop an email to them. That is what we are doing now."

The member said they had not yet received a response from

ACTIVISTS' CONCERNS

- Activists say reclamation work poses a threat to the coastal ecology and the fishing community in the area; and will lead to loss of 200 trees at Tata Garden in Bhulabhai Desai Road
- They also highlighted the lack of public consultation before the project was cleared.

BMC, and claimed that some of the e-mails had bounced back, owing to the volume of e-mails sent.

The 9.97-km coastal road aims to connect the island city to the western suburbs. The project, extending from Marine Lines to Kandivli, will be carried out in two phases.