

Flying over trouble

MSRDC to modify Peddar Rd Flyover plan to 'circumvent' CRZ violations

By A Special Correspondent

The much-controversial Peddar Road flyover might well finally see the light of the day, with the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) deciding to slightly modify the earlier plan so as to avoid the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. As per the revised plan, the piers of the flyover alignment at Girgaum Chowpatty will be slightly pushed towards Kemps Corner, so that it does not come under the CRZ norms.

Sources in MSRDC informed the ADC that tenders will be floated once the union environment gives permission to the corporation to withdraw its application for environment clearance. As per the revised plan, the existing Kemps Corner bridge will be demolished to make way for the four lane, 4.2 km Peddar Road Flyover, which will start from Haji Ali junction and end at Tambe Chowk near Wilson College.

The flyover will follow the existing alignment of Peddar Road and will not encroach upon



Girgaum Chowpatty. MSRDC sources disclosed that the pillars of the flyover will be steel based and have the latest noise and pollution control panels on either side, as has been done on the J J Flyover. The MSRDC expects the flyover to be constructed in 18 months' time. However, corporation sources admit that motorist will have to negotiate a somewhat sharp

turn at the Girgaum Chowpatty end.

The original cost of the flyover was pegged at Rs.320 crore. Ever since it was planned around 1995-96 during the then Shiv Sena-BJP government, the project has been mired in series of litigations, with about 10 to 11 cases pending before the Bombay High Court. It may be recalled that famous playback singer sisters Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle had even called upon then Chief Minister Manohar Joshi in Vidhan Bhavan, urging the government to abandon the idea.

They had argued that it would disturb their peace and tranquility and their practice sessions, with passing by motorists trying to peep into their households. Asha had also threatened to immigrate to Dubai if the flyover was built. To this, MNS chief Raj Thackeray gave a sharp rejoinder, taunting that the flyover was

being built for Indians and not for those in Dubai. Given the high stakes involved in the project, neither Minister for Public Works (state PSUs), Jaydutta Kshirsagar or the MSRDC officials are willing to talk on record,

**Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar...
Lijjat Papad Ho Harbar...**

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Della Adventure: Luxury par excellence at your doorstep

By Caroline Déclas

Della Adventure is a Rs.250-crore project, which includes India's largest adventure park, second homes and 5-star accommodation. Launched two years ago in Lonavala, near Pune, Jimmy Mistry, Chairman & Managing Director, Della Tecnica Architects & Interior Design, tries to make things as innovative as possible, after extensive research, picking up ideas from his travels and from the net.

The Della Adventure spreads over 36 acres offering 86 thrilling activities such as ATV rides, rock climbing and rappelling, archery, golf, radio controlled car and plane and virtual games. It aims to offer the best of the adventure sports on the same place. "Here, we have four kinds of zorbing (activities) in the same place. Indians do not have the luxury of time so we offer them maximum opportunities," said Jimmy Mistry, adding, "This park is all about entertainment, and it is also a way to make the urban Indian rediscover nature and to show them that they can have fun in other places than malls," Mistry added, "Here, they can do things that they would normally hesitate to do, e.g. milking a cow or walking



Della Adventure, spread over 36 acres, offers 86 thrilling activities such as ATV rides, rock climbing, rappelling and archery.

dogs. They can also enjoy reconnecting with nature - riding horses, trekking, mountain cycling and such other activities."

The park has also the longest flying fox of India (550 ft) and the highest rocket ejector (41/2 floors

high). Along this park, Mistry has designed and created a villa complex. The swimming pool is complementary for the owners and the coffee shop is open 24 hours. "I mainly based this project to answer my will as a customer. I was fed up

of not being able to swim in the hotel after 9 pm, as I finish work, or just having a sandwich at night. Here, I want to keep the swimming pool open 24X7, so that one can always feel at home," he said. They can also go to the Spa, or the hairdresser as well as the gym."

Equipped with conference rooms, cyber cafés and banquets, this park mainly focuses on the corporate person with an average age of 27 to 35. "This is not aiming to become an EsselWorld," quipped Mistry. However, each member of a family can easily have fun in the park as there are activities for all of them and restaurant and snacks to suit every pocket.

The group is planning to finalise the park by June with the opening of a new vegetarian restaurant and a new banquet room. With a capacity of 1,500 visitors per day, the team is now planning to spread the concept across India as close as possible to cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Indore, Delhi and Kolkata and want to reconstruct the 2.5 km road leading to the park that was not improved by the municipality.

With no foreign inputs and no outsourced services (from the water tank to the bakery, everyone

works only for the Della Adventure group). Mistry is an entrepreneur who believes in Indian talent and whose project is meant to grow and encounter success.

MUMBAI VIKAS SABNIS



We use it to board the local trains conveniently! The platform height is too low over here.

« OPINIONS »

Will the Congress-NCP alliance breakup prove fruitful for the Sena-BJP in the state?

Y N

Mitul Jasani
Businessman

Usually, it was observed that the Congress-NCP alliance prevented the opposition from coming to power in the state.

Y N

Pratik Gaiwad
MBA Student

This will break the backbone of both the Congress as well as the NCP, who are interdependent on each other.

Y N

Shivshankar Dey
Hotel Management Student

The opposition was always weak, but this change would hardly affect the alliance partners.

Y N

Mohit Lala
Reliance Employee

This change would make the saffron alliance more powerful, who might also win the forthcoming elections in the state.

Y N

Amol Kale
Hotel Owner

With this change, the opposition will get an opportunity to strike and probably win the elections.