

Sept 30 brake for Bullet clearances

CM says take advantage of Centre's pro-active role; no time overrun allowed for compensation, completion of land transfer and acquisition

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Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday held his maiden war room meeting for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail corridor (Bullet train) and directed all departments concerned to work on a war footing. While setting a deadline of September 30 for all clearances, he said there should be no scope for time and cost overruns.

Shinde has directed that the process of land acquisition and transfer in the Rs 1.08 lakh-crore project should be completed along with the compensation aspect. He also asked the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) and other departments to complete land acquisition and related issues for various Metro projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Shinde said, "If the project is delayed, the cost escalates and the wait gets longer. The state should take advantage of the Centre's pro-active role in approving various projects by regular follow-ups and timely implementation," said Shinde.



After taking over in June, Shinde had given necessary clearance to fast-track the 508.17-km Bullet train project, and had asked the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to hand over 4.8 hectare land for the underground station at Bandra Kurla Complex.

Shinde's directives are important as the possession of nearly 159.07 hectare of land in Palghar district is still pending. A total of 1,396 hectare in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli are needed for the project. During the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government, the process of land acquisition was stalled due to a tussle with the Centre.

CONTD. ON P15

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Along with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Shinde also reviewed the status of other transport infrastructure projects, including the railways, Metro, multimodal corridor and the development of Tuljapur and Pandharpur temples. He also reviewed the Pune-Nashik Semi High Speed Rail project, which was approved by the NITI Aayog in April 2022 and is pending for clearance by the cabinet committee on economic affairs. The CM asked the administration to expedite the acquisition of private land and transfer of government and forest land.