

Riverfront devt proj to cause irreversible damage: Greens

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: City environmentalists on Sunday speaking at a panel discussion on the city rivers and their future echoed that the Riverfront Development (RFD) project “is going to cause irreversible damages to the rivers in Pune.”

One of the panellists, Sarang Yadwadkar said, “The embankments proposed under RFD are going reduce the width of the river. This will further increase the chances of flooding.”

According to Yadwadkar the environmental clearance received for the project is flawed. The civic administration is planning to monetise the lands near the river, he said on Sunday.

Sathya Natarajan, another panellist, said that citizen participation has been good and it is now time that the authorities declare the Mula-Mutha river as a heritage river.

Another panellist, Mukund Mavalankar, said, “They are going to cut the trees at this site and we are going to lose a lot of the area’s heritage because of this project.” He added, “The authorities should alternative-

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What are environmentalists demanding?

- Scrap RFD
- Declare Mula-Mutha a heritage river
- Focus on increasing sewage treatment capacity



PMC SAYS:

- Multiple public consultations & expert interactions held
- Environment impact assessment study done before starting project

THREE RFD STRETCHES

- **Phase 1** | Sangamwadi to Bund Garden (3.7kms | ₹265cr)
- **Phase 2** | Bund Garden to Mundhwa (5.6km | ₹604cr)
- **Phase 3** | Aundh-Baner and Balewadi (8kms | ₹610cr (estimate))
- 50% works for declared phases to be completed by end of 2023



ly focus on improving and increasing the sewage treatment capacity of the city.”

According to data from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), the RFD project has been planned over a 44 km stretch. Two tenders have been approved for this project, which include the Sangamwadi to Bund Garden — 3.7km stretch worth Rs265 crore and the Bund Garden to Mundhwa stretch, which is 5.6km and of Rs604 crore. The project is to be developed on a public private partnership basis. Around 50% works for the declared

phases would be complete by end of 2023.

The civic body has also finalized the estimate for the third phase of the riverfront development project. The eight kilometre long stretch, spanning Aundh-Baner and Balewadi areas will cost around Rs610 crore. The PMC officials have refuted allegations made by the environmentalists and claimed that they have carried out a number of public consultations and expert interactions. They also said than an environment impact assessment study was also conducted.