

MTHL within scheduled time, no harm to flamingos: Hon'ble Chief Minister

Mumbai. Jan 15. Shri Uddhav Thackeray, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti, launched the first girder of the prestigious Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) at Sewri today and exuded confidence that the project will be completed on time.

After launching the first girder, Shri Thackeray along with Shri Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development Department and the Chairman MMRDA, Shri R. A. Rajeev, Metropolitan Commissioner of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and other officials- visited gigantic site of the bridge.

Speaking to the mediapersons, Shri Thackeray said, "We were listening from the years about this project and asking when this will see the light of the day and today we have got the answer. The work on the project is in full swing and being executed at faster pace. I am told that this project can be completed even before its scheduled completion date."

A bird-lover himself, Shri Thackeray allayed the fears of dispelling the flamingos from the site vicinity and said that these migratory birds have not budged from the site.

Shri Thackeray said, "I had a walk on the construction site and found that flamingos are very much near the site."

Shri Eknath Shinde said that this 6-lane-bridge will connect Sewri in island city to Nhava in Raigad district. This will reduce the travel time between south Mumbai and Navi Mumbai by 2.30 to 3 hours. The construction period of the project is 4.5 years and is expected to be completed by Sept 2022. Till date about 19 percent financial progress has been achieved."

Metropolitan commissioner Shri R A Rajeev, who briefed Hon'ble Chief Minister about the project, said that MTHL will be the longest sea bridge in the country after its completion.

Addressing the media, Shri R. A. Rajeev said, "This 22-km-long bridge is the longest bridge on the sea, which involves several engineering marvels and milestone in its construction. There are more than 10,700 segments in this gigantic bridge which are pre-casted and all the segments are of different specification. Besides, we have secured all the pre-requisite approvals from the different agencies including Forest Department, Cidco, Railways, BARC, ASI etc. We are happy that we are completing it within time."

Shri R. A. Rajeev assured that MMRDA is taking extra care in executing this project without disturbing environment, especially the flamingos.

He said, "All the environmental concerns which were raised during the onset of the project, have been well taken care of and you can see that flamingos have not run away from the vicinity of the project. The sound barriers, the lighting arrangements and other precautions have been taken care and therefore, the numbers of migratory birds have, on the contrary, has increased in this mud-pan-land of Sewri."

This bridge has two interchanges, first at Shivaji Nagar in Sewri and second at village Chirle near national highway 4B. According to MMRDA estimate, over 70,000 vehicles will pass through this bridge which will not only save time of the motorists, but also save decent amount of fuel.

MP Shri Arvind Sawant, MLA Shri Ajay Chaudhary, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner of MMRDA Shri Sanjay Khandare along with several other officials and team of MMRDA engineers were present at the occasion. (EOM)

