

# BMC to resurface 150 additional roads by November-end

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

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MOTORISTS WILL have to face more barricaded roads and traffic snarls in the coming days when the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will begin resurfacing nearly 150 additional roads across the city by the end of November. The civic body has already begun resurfacing 200 roads from October and is confident of reaching this year's target of 624 new roads ahead of next year's monsoon.

The BMC aims to reconstruct and resurface 1,343 roads or 507 km across the city, of which 719 roads are spillover works from the last monsoon. In addition to this, the civic body will also begin to refurbish 1.31 lakh square metre area of junctions or 23 junctions. The civic body is replacing paver blocks with cement at these junctions.

"There is a delay in getting No-objection Certificates from the traffic police, especially in the areas, where there are already road restrictions due to ongoing Metro work. The work will be carried out in phases," said Vinod Chitore, chief engineer,

roads department.

Of the 624 new roads or 202 km, 199 roads are in the island city, followed by 155 in the eastern suburbs and 270 roads in the western suburbs. As many as 62 of these fall in the Priority 1 category - the roads that are chronically prone to potholes and are in immediate need of refurbishing. Of these 62 roads, 15 are located each in the island city and eastern suburbs, while 32 are in the western suburbs.

The categorisation of road-works according to priority began to be undertaken after the road repair scam of 2015. The scam had highlighted poor quality of road repair work and nexus between civic officials and contractors. A total of 180 engineers were indicted in the two-phase inquiry, while six of them were dismissed from service.

Of the 719 roads that are spillover works from May, 238 km will be reconstructed and are project roads with a defect liability period of three years. In the defect liability period, the contractor is liable to maintain and refurbish the road if needed. Between October 2016 and May 2017, BMC had reconstructed 552 km of road.

