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## Development comes at a coast in Bandra

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*Photo by Yogesh Naik*

*Under-construction coastal road hinders view for Joggers Park, Otters Club.*

The coastal road project continues to claim victims when it comes to obstructing sea view. After the Breach Candy Club lost its prized sea view to the coastal road project, the Joggers Park and Otters Club in Bandra are going the same way, thanks to the Bandra-Versova Sealink, which is part of the same project. Work is in full swing on a slightly elevated road leading to the sealink in Bandra West that is blocking the view to the sea from Joggers Park and Otters Club.

When this correspondent visited the spot recently, he saw three excavators at the spot.

Rajesh Thadani, the president of the Otters Club, said, “We don’t have much information about the project, but it is affecting our view and it will soon create parking issues.”

A member of the Otters Club said, “I took membership of the Otters Club just for the unhindered sea view from there. Now, this will go. Watching the sunset gives me mental peace. We will soon see a huge line of cars. This will spoil the charm of the area. Many in Mumbai come to the Carter Road promenade only to relax. The machinery used for sealink is creating a lot of noise, and there is dust too.”



Work on coastal road underway in Bandra West; residents say the project will spoil the charm of the area and lead to traffic chaos

Bandra resident Rinka DMonte said, “The sealink is a short-term solution for a larger urban issue the city faces. It takes away the unhindered view of the sea – something we value so much. This is part of the government’s myopic policies which encourage short-term solutions. The open spaces are given to car owners of the city, which account for 8 per cent of population, and the rest of the people suffer.”

Shyama Kulkarni, an activist of the watchdog committee for Save Joggers Park, said, “We are dead against the sealink. The connector will be next to the Otters Club. It will lead to traffic snarls.”

The project has been undertaken by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation. Its managing director Radheshyam Mopalwar said, “The sealink is at least one km in the sea. At the same time, the Carter Road promenade is in a bad shape. We are doing it properly so that it becomes attractive.”

### **Coastal Road**

The 29.2-km coastal road will run along the city’s western coastline connecting Marine Lines on the southern tip to the western suburb of Kandivali. The government has set a July 2023 deadline for completion of the first phase of the ambitious project, but experts believe it could take longer.