

## Metropolitan Commissioner wants 'Bicycle movement' in city - It can improve city's health n' environment Says R. A. Rajeev

**Mumbai, June 5, 2018** – "Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark is called 'city of cyclists' where 52% of the population uses bicycles for its daily commute to work and is healthier than those who drive to work. I want healthier Mumbaikars and hence am considering bicycle movement", said Mr. R. A. Rajeev, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, on the World Environment Day, "And am awaiting their response".



Mr. Rajeev, who heads Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority – which has taken up the mantle of improving Mumbai's transport infrastructure – always struggles to answer 'Infrastructure-or-environment' quandary. "Frankly, I am considering pushing the bicycle movement. One cannot turn a blind eye to the way world is responding to the environment call. Let me give a few figures – 60% of Finland and 57% of Japan's population uses bicycle. It's 48% each in Belgium and Switzerland. 37.2% of China too uses bicycles. There's bicycle movement in Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, United States of America. In fact, it's the Bogota's bicycle movement, which began in 1974 and became a Colombian tradition, is now spreading around the world", Mr. Rajeev dished out figures not only to promote bicycle ride but also one more way of combating traffic snarls.



“Yes, I am seriously considering creating bicycle stands at Metro stations, a few dedicated cycle paths that will enable people to cycle to stations and back home. Bike-share system can also be considered if Mumbaikars brace the concept. The system will provide bike-stations around Metro stations with parking facility. Should there be reasonable response, introducing a ‘self-driven-cycle-cab’ can also be considered. One can take a cycle from a bike-station and reach another one to cross the distance”, said Mr. Rajeev



If one considers traffic scenario in Mumbai, public rush in suburban railways, time consumed during road transport, rising fuel prices; and weighs them along side Bicycle-movement being considered by the Metropolitan Commissioner, the quandary will answer itself.