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New coastal rules may halt Dharavi plans

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June 17: Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Vilasrao Deshmukh vehemently opposed the central government's ideas of implementing the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification as that would virtually freeze the development of the city.

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, the Maharashtra government has asked for an extension of time to submit its note on objections and suggestions relating to the CMZ notification. They have also demanded a meeting of all the chief ministers to discuss the issue. Mr Deshmukh has asked the BMC, MMRDA and CIDCO to submit their reports in a week's time, which he said

would be placed before the PM.

In a meeting held at the Mantralaya on Tuesday, the chief minister in the presence of the Maharashtra state chief secretary Johny Joseph, UDD principal secretary T.C. Benjamin and others, came to the conclusion that the imposing issue is that of the set back line.

This is decided considering elevations, geomorphology, sea-levels and horizontal shoreline displacement. At present, the high-tide line is 500 metres but if the CMZ notification is implemented there won't be any development in the city of Mumbai.

The dream of developing the city will not materialise as the increased FSI cannot be used.

"Even though the issue of preservation of the coastal

What is Coastal Zone Management notification?

After the tsunami in 2004, the Swaminathan committee was formed in 2005, which recommended various measures to minimise the damage in case of a calamity. On the basis of these, the union government has come up with the Coastal Zone Management notification.

area is an important issue, the excess of the same will stall urban development and cost the state dearly," said Mr Deshmukh.

He expressed his concern over the fact that all the development projects including even the "Dharavi plan" would be affected in the case of the implementation of the CMZ notification.

He said that on issues related to CRZ 1, 2, 3, and 4, the central, the state and coastal line regulation committee should decide the issues in consultation with some scientific institution.

The union has called for objections and suggestions on the CZM notification published in May 2008 by July 9, 2008.