



## Human chain takes Aarey battle to SoBo

Richa Pinto, TNN | Mar 21, 2015, 04:54AM IST

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MUMBAI: The city came out in full support of the Save Aarey movement, which for the first time reached South Mumbai, after several events at Aarey colony. A human chain was formed along the Marine Drive promenade on Friday evening, with participants carrying banners and posters sending out the message of 'Save Aarey'.

The high point of the formation of the human chain was Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis riding past in his vehicle.

Citizen activists, school children, advanced locality management (ALM) members and others joined hands to form the chain. **Stalin Dayanand**, a member of the Save Aarey movement, said they were glad with the response they received.

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"We had stilt-walkers as well, carrying Save Aarey posters, while other residents hung posters around their necks. The response was very encouraging and since the chief minister passed by, we are sure it did not go unnoticed," said Dayanad.

Many resident groups from the city joined the campaign. Harish Pandey from the New Link Road Residents' Forum (Dahisar) said, "Development in the city will keep happening, but that does not mean that we should do it by cutting away trees. Why can't we have parallel development as well as conserve our environment?"

Residents of J Tata Road at Churchgate joined in, as they may also lose their green cover for the construction of the Metro III. Ruchir Bansal, a Churchgate resident, said, "When you hardly have any greenery left in the city, where is the need to take away the existing greenery? We came here as we also are against trees being cut for development, a cause similar to that of the Save Aarey campaigners."

Godfrey Pimenta of the Watch Dog Foundation said since he stays close to Aarey, he wanted to make sure that the last existing green cover of the city was not taken away

Cuffe Parade's Parag Udani said they had brought in civic school children, who go to the study centre at the Colaba woods regularly to study, for the human chain.

Nearly 2,298 trees are obstructing the car shed plan for the Metro III and needed to be transplanted or cut.

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