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BMC allows terrace access to all building lifts



MUMBAI: In a first, the [BMC](#) has approved a provision to allow [lifts](#) to travel right till the common terrace areas of all [buildings](#), in an attempt to improve accessibility for the elderly and differently abled.

According to the BMC's development control regulations ([D CR](#)), the lift is an alternate means of vertical access in addition to a staircase. The civic body's building proposal (BP) department had initiated a proposal for allowing lifts till the terrace areas of buildings earlier this month.

The proposal states that the provision is needed for optimal use of terraces as an additional recreational area. Currently, the common terrace of any building can only be accessed by a staircase as there was no clear-cut provision regarding accessibility of common terraces above the top-most floor by lift. While the DCR 1991 did not have such a provision, the draft DCR 2034, which is currently undergoing revisions, has provided for making common terraces available by staircases as well as lifts. It also states that common terraces could be

used for an additional recreational green area over and above the mandatory layout open space requirement.

Civic officials said the need for such a provision arose because of increasing demand from newer projects in the past few years. "However, in case of existing buildings, prior certification regarding a building's structural stability must be submitted. The society must also ensure security of premises once a lift is allowed to travel right till the terrace," said an official, adding that external lifts till the terrace area will be permitted too.

[Municipal commissioner](#) Ajoy Mehta said while lifts will be allowed to reach the terrace, no construction will be allowed on it.

"A lot of people these days have taken an interest in rooftop gardens. We are allowing this provision to enable them to reach there easily."

Activist Neenu Kewlani, who uses a wheelchair, called it a wonderful decision.