

Portion of building collapses in Bhendi Bazaar

ABHISVARA SINHA

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ON Wednesday, a portion of Galabhai Chawl in Bhendi Bazaar collapsed during a spell of heavy rain. Three families, residing inside the structure, escaped unhurt.

Galabhai Chawl is one of the 250 dilapidated buildings part of the 16.5-acre Bhendi Bazaar cluster redevelopment scheme currently under way.

Officials of Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT), executing the project, said most of the residents of the cessed structure had moved into transit homes after MHADA declared it unsafe in 2012.

Since then, no pre-monsoon repair works were carried out on the building.

“I ran out of my store after hearing a loud noise. Within 45 minutes, the area was filled with BMC rescue teams, the fire brigade and the local police,” said Mohammad Shakeel, a commercial tenant operating out of the building for the past 15 years. “We have been trying to evacuate residents but have faced difficulty in convincing a few,” said assistant municipal commissioner Sangita Hasnale of C ward.

mumbai.newsline@expressindia.com