

Redevpt of Bhendi Bazar gets BMC nod

City's biggest cluster project one step away from starting

Sudhir Suryawanshi

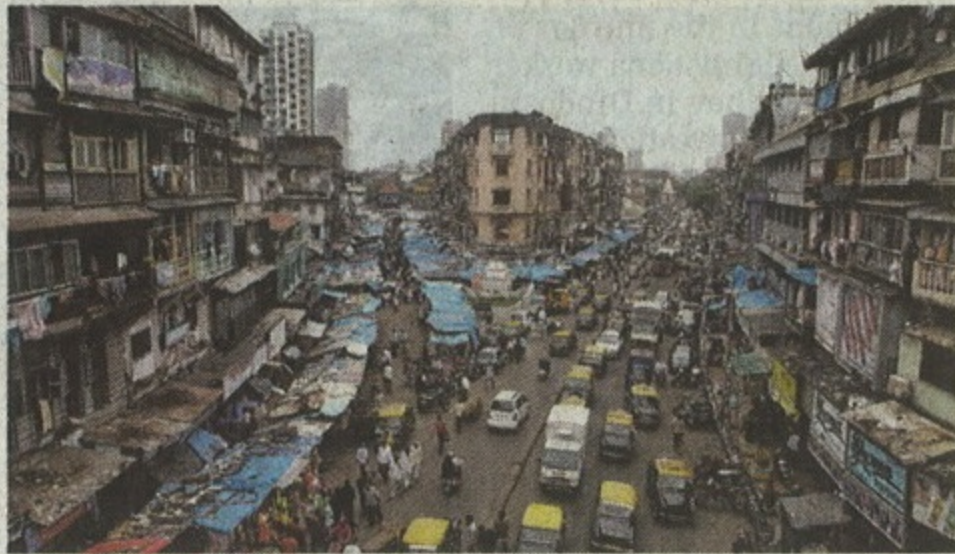
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The Rs4,000-crore Bhendi Bazaar cluster redevelopment project was given the Intimation of Disapproval (IOD) approval by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday. The Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT) has undertaken the project.

Receipt of the IOD is a step closer to starting construction. The next is acquiring the commencement certificate (CC), for which the developer has to submit the required documents.

SBUT said it will now apply for the CC after fulfilling IOD conditions, all of which is expected to take a few months before construction can begin.

The project has been spread over 16.6 acres. "It is Mumbai's biggest and largest cluster redevelopment project. We will complete it as early as possible because most of the major approvals are in place, including ministry of environment and forests nod. We want to make the project a role model for the rest of the world," said Abbas Master, CEO of SBUT.



"There will be huge area for parking and a playground. Also, stress will be laid on keeping the area green, with recreational facilities and commercial space also being developed. But first we'll rehabilitate the project-affected people."

Since inception of the cluster development scheme in 2009, out of the total 46 projects, only a couple are expected to become a reality as of now, Bhendi Bazaar one of them.

Master said the project will not only change the face of South Mumbai but also improve people's living condition. "It will transform Bhendi

Bazaar into a diverse sustainable community with a healthy neighbourhood, creating a vibrant urban area. This path-breaking project will not only be a benchmark for urban renewal projects in Mumbai but also act as a template for the same in India and throughout the world," he added.

Currently, more than 60 dilapidated buildings have been demolished in Bhendi Bazaar.

"We have acquired more than 85% of the buildings. If the rest are reluctant to give approval, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has promised to extend help in getting their consent," Master said.

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