

# 'Greedy' owners hold up Bhendi Bazaar redevtpt

Clara Lewis | TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The much-awaited redevelopment of Bhendi Bazaar will take a while longer. Holding back the Rs 1,500-crore project is mandatory ownership of all properties marked for cluster redevelopment. The trust that has taken up the project on a no-profit, no-loss basis has asked the government to modify one of the cluster clauses of the Development Control Regula-



The no-profit Saifee Burhani trust has managed to buy only 85% of the buildings in the area

## ► Trust seeks change in DCR, P 5

tions (DCR) so that it can start work.

"There are 290 buildings spread over 16.5 acres, including religious structures. In all, we need to buy 249 buildings, but have purchased 212 so far, which is 85% of the requirement," said Abdeali Bhanpurawala, secretary, Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT). "Acquiring the remaining is proving to be a hurdle. Landlords are demanding a price far in excess of the market rate,

which is an unreasonable demand."

The trust has asked the government to allow it to redevelop clusters where they have 100% ownership or reduce the ownership clause to 80% for the entire area. It has asked the government to amend DCR's clause 33(9), give powers to Mhada to buy out the remaining landlords by giving them 50-100% more than the ready reckoner rates for their properties.

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