

Bhendi Bazaar redevelopment



Saifee Burhani Upliftment Project

➤ A LOT of people in the know swear that the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Project launched in 2009 by His Holiness **Dr Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin**, the spiritual head of the Dawoodi Bohra community is going to transform the face of Central Mumbai. Covering approximately 16.5 acres in Bhendi Bazaar, the project will impact 3,200 homes in 250 buildings and around 1,250 businesses. When it's complete it aims to transform the lives of approximately 20,000 individuals. Speaking about the ambitious plans, the COO **Abizer Diwanji** said, "Bhendi Bazaar was first settled in the 19th century. Post-independence, unfortunately, little has been done, to stay in tune with the times and its evolving landscape. After the redevelopment plan is brought into reality, significantly more space will be available for green spaces, play and open areas, recreational facilities as well as for community activities." To our minds it sounds like the pioneering initiative undertaken by the Parsi Panchayat to house its community when it created the Dadar Parsi Colony decades ago. The wide tree-lined roads, well constructed, solid buildings and thoughtfully designed recreational areas are a testimony to progressive city planning. Moreover, we are happy to note that the people behind the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Project are going about it in a secular and sensitive way. "Care has been exercised to ensure that all the religious structures in the area are retained in their present state and the redevelopment skillfully happens around them," they say. We like!