

Tere mere beach mein

Juhu beach will get a facelift. On the cards are: art plazas, an amphitheatre, a speakers' corner, children's parks, a Garden of Senses and Tai Chi zones. The grand masterplan drawn up by architect P K Das will be implemented thanks to endowments from MP and actress Hema Malini and actress and former MP Shabana Azmi. **Shibu Thomas** gives the details

Action plan

JUHU beach is divided into two major sections — central Chowpatty, off Juhu road and eight access lanes that lead to the beach.

The first section, central Chowpatty is proposed to be completely renovated with a clear view of the sea, two food courts, palm groves and parks.

The second area near the eight access lanes — Military Road, Gandhi Road, Holiday Inn Hotel, Birla Lane, Juhu Lane, Royal Lane, Pandya Lane and Jitendra Lane, will have their own characteristic features with art plazas, a drama zone, an amphitheatre, exercise zones, a senior citizen zone and children's parks.

The people behind the plan

FOR actress and MP, **Hema Malini**, it's payback time. Thirty years ago, when she came to Mumbai, her father bought her a house in Juhu. She said she loves the area and wants to do her bit to restore Juhu to its earlier glory. She has pledged Rs 90 lakh from her MP local area development fund. Her idea is to have an atmosphere like London's Hyde Park, with caricaturists, street performers and free concerts.



ACTRESS and former MP, **Shabana Azmi**, is credited with initiating the project for the redevelopment of Juhu Beach. She pledged Rs 1 crore for the project from her MP local area development fund.



ARCHITECT, **P K Das**, who also drew up the beautification plans for Carter Road and Bandra promenade, will be implementing this plan. He says that Juhu Beach is part of a larger plan to save, preserve and restore Mumbai's beaches.

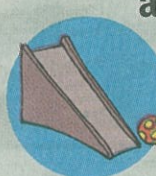
Chowpatty area



WITH the food stalls relocated, you can now have a clear view of the sea from the road. Right now, food stalls, giant wheels and the like, partially block the view. All animal and motorised rides will be taken off the beach.

In this area will be palm groves, seating areas and walkways. The food stalls will be relocated in a food court near Ramada Inn. Gandhi garden, to the left of the existing food stalls would be redeveloped with a central ramp for Ganapati immersions. A footpath will be constructed which will also be a drop-off bay for vehicles.

Children's play area



THIS is a park reserved only for kids.

Coconut grove



THESE 980 square metres will be dedicated to a stretch of coconut palms. It's near the J W Marriott hotel.

Parking



TWO large car parking zones are proposed — one adjacent to Shiv Sagar restaurant accommodating 152 four wheelers and 185 two wheelers. Another car park opposite Tulip Star Hotel will accommodate 162 four wheelers, seven buses and 385 two wheelers.

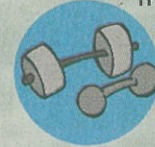
Picnic zone



HALF of this 2,200 square metre park near Tulip Star hotel will be a picnic zone.

The other half will be bordered by palm trees and coconut trees and will be reserved for practitioners of Yoga, Tai Chi and other health arts.

Exercise zone



THIS is a 830 square metre park for health freaks, near Kings Apartments.

Senior citizens park



SPREAD over 2,200 square metres, this park near the IAS officers society, will be open only to senior citizens.

Art and culture zone



SPREAD over 3,235 square metres, this area is accessed from Gandhi Gram road. Near Raheja apartments, it will house a Garden of Senses, which will have aromatic plants, a podium which would serve as a theatre space and a Speaker's area among others; an art plaza and an amphitheatre to showcase cultural events.

