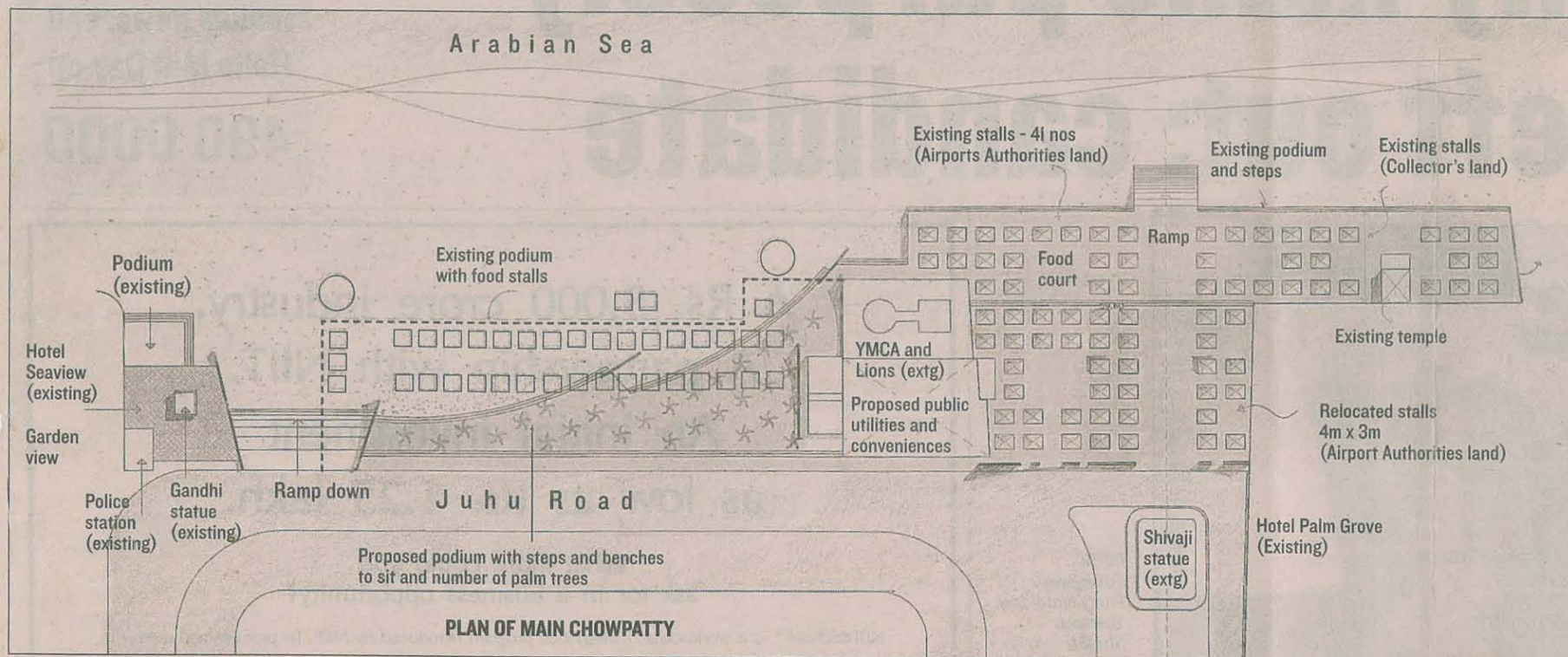


news

Rs 2 cr makeover for Juhu Beach



OVERHAUL: The proposed plan for the beach

Relocating food stalls, Ganpati immersion ramp, promenade on the cards

Skimmy Gupta

JUHU residents who were lamenting the lack of a Carter Road-style promenade can now take heart.

A yearlong restoration plan for the Juhu waterfront has been assigned to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) at a cost of Rs 2 crore.

A Juhu Beach Redevelopment Trust has been formed to realise the project. It comprises the collec-

tor, additional municipal commissioner, ward officer, the National Airports Authority, Juhu Beach Hawkers' Association, Association of Juhu Hotels and local resident associations.

Renowned architect P K Das, who is in charge of the project, said, "Shabana Azmi has released Rs 1 crore from the MP fund for the project. The Birlas have also allocated funds and will maintain the beach. The maintenance of the main beach will be handled by the Juhu Beach Society."

Das said, "The main purpose of the restoration is to make the sea more visible from the road itself and to have more open area on the beach. It will largely be for the general public to provide much needed open space in the city. The project will not dislocate anyone, but allocate specific zones for them on the beach."

MP Shabana Azmi was

unavailable for comment. Das, however, outlined the details of the project.

The project is expected to mainly work on four fronts. On the beach, the 42 licensed food stalls will be relocated in a food court opposite the Shivaji statue. This will be further equipped with lighting, sanitation and sewage facilities.

The area thus cleared will also have a podium and a ramp for Ganpati immersion. The area around the podium will have palm trees and designer furniture for visitors. The construction of a continuous pedestrian walkway is also underway.

Encroachments on the beach will be removed and the area will be made accessible to the public.

Apart from the Chowpatty entrance, the eight lanes leading to the beach, including the Centaur Hotel and Holiday Inn approach



FACELIFT: Juhu Beach

lane, will be redeveloped. Entry of vehicles and handcarts will be restricted. Vacant land available at the end of the Holiday Inn and Birla access lane will be developed to be a children's park.

Two large car parking lots will be developed near Shiv Sagar

restaurant and opposite the Centaur Hotel. A proposed pedestrian subway connecting an existing car park near Palm Grove Hotel and the proposed car park near Shiv Sagar restaurant will ease the traffic bottleneck at Juhu Tara Road.

'My land of Oz'

K N Prabhu has no time for these

backs. Life was undoubtedly hard for the laid back Poms who were accustomed to other things.

served. And occasionally the huge flies which buzzed me around the