

Democracy Housing Rights and Social Change

**Case Study of Sanjay Gandhi Nagar and
Sangharsh Nagar, Mumbai**

**Presentation by Architect-Activist P K Das
at the SRM University, Chennai**

30th March, 2009





New township raises the bar for slum rehab

Asia's largest slum re-housing project in Chandivli gets its first occupants

Madhurima Nandy
Mumbai, May 1

SAVITA RAO is looking forward to a good night's sleep after three decades of disturbed slumber. She has just moved into a spanking new studio apartment in Chandivli, 15 km south of her ramshackle tenement bordering Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

"Every night, we would sleep in fear that a leopard would pick up our children," said Rao, 45, who lived on the edge of the forest.

On Tuesday, Rao and other families were re-housed as part of a slum upgradation scheme. Some of them turned emotional, their eyes glistening with tears as they accepted keys to their flats in a 45-acre township that raises the bar for slum rehabilitation projects.

Instead of the unimaginative and shoddily constructed buildings that are the hallmark of slum rehabilitation projects, the Chandivli township has been designed from the bottom-up, with the socio-economic needs of low-income groups in mind (see 'The new design'). In the past, poor design has contributed to slum dwellers selling out and moving back to shanty towns.

If the township succeeds, it could become a model for other

projects. The success of slum upgradation is critical for improving the deplorable living conditions of half the city's residents, and a prerequisite for Mumbai becoming a world-class finance hub.

The Chandivli slum re-housing project is also the largest in Asia. By the end of the year, twelve thousand families will move in: equivalent to one-fourth the population of the city's 'A' ward, consisting of Colaba, Cuffe Parade and Fort. In ten days, one third of them will have shifted.

The township is unique also because groups usually at loggerheads with one another have collaborated: the government, builder Sumer Corporation, independent architect P.K. Das and NGO Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti.

Nivara Hakk initiated the project eight years ago after environmental groups took legal action to get the slums removed on the grounds that they were encroaching on the park. The NGO has been closely involved with the project to ensure that the quality of construction is good and that the allocation of flats is fair and transparent, its activists said. Other slum re-housing projects have been ridden with corruption on these two fronts.

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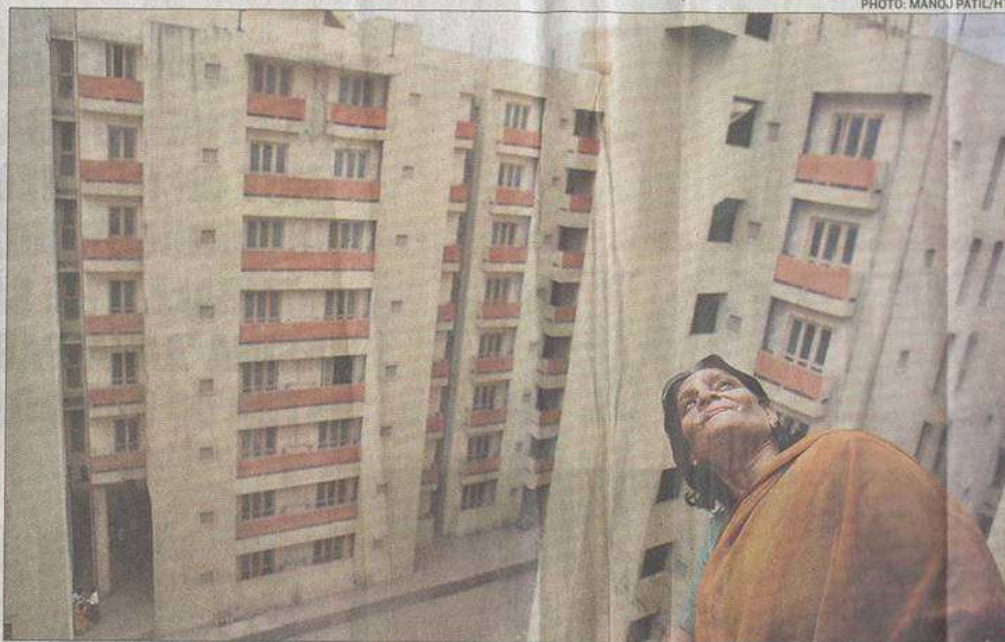


PHOTO: MANUJ PATIL/HT

The new design

- A township spread over 45 acres in Chandivli
- Very close to the up-market Hiranandani Gardens in Powai
- 12,000 housing units spread over 15 clusters, with 16 buildings in each cluster
- Four buildings in a sub-cluster, which open out into a courtyard to enable community bonding
- No dormitory-type corridors, but two flats on each side for good ventilation
- A small foyer in every building, in an effort to create more communal space
- Well lit and ventilated flats
- Nicely tiled bathrooms
- Drying balconies
- Central maidan
- Three parks

A NEW BEGINNING: Asha Giri Goswami in the balcony of her Chandivli flat.

UNLIKELY PARTNERS



Shabana Azmi
Member of Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti



Vilasrao Deshmukh
Chief Minister, chairman of SRA



P.K. Das
Architect and member of Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti



Ramessh Shah
Partner in Sumer Corporation, a construction firm

This township is an example where an NGO has helped the government, slumdwellers and the developer to come together to build a township.

The township shouldn't become an improved slum. Workshops should be held to make sure that residents take appropriate care.

We tried to design the township in a way that would preserve the communal life that people are used to in slums.

It's a very important project for me. I spent three-and-a-half years from morning to night on the site. It is a one-of-a-kind project in India.

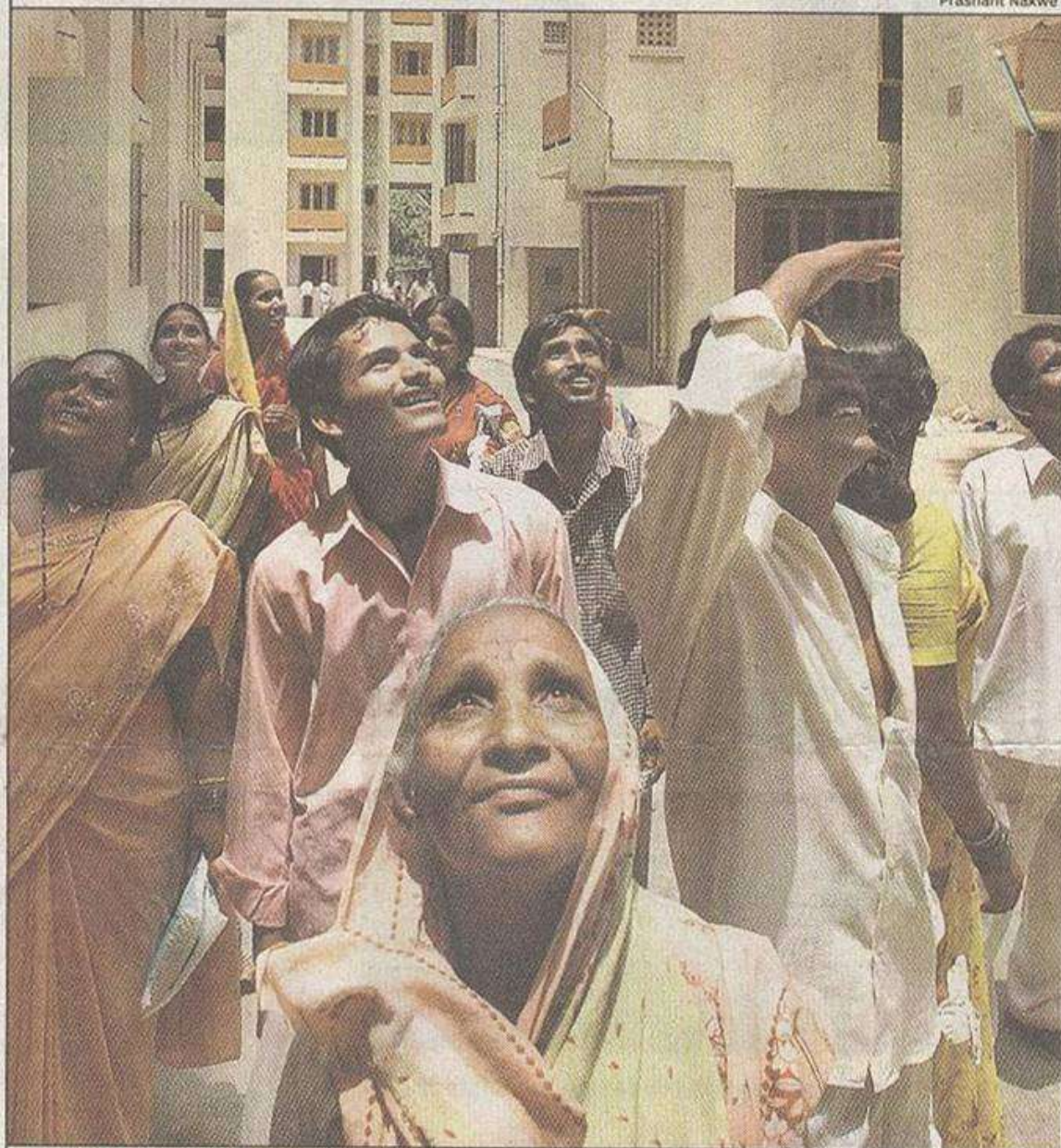
'I'll never give this house up'

Madhurima Nandy
Mumbai, May 1

ASHA GIRI Goswami, 40, has never lived in a high-rise building. After 20 years of living precariously in a shanty town on the fringes of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, on Tuesday she finally entered her home.

"This township was a dream for all of us and we have seen it develop from scratch," she said. An added surprise was that she was allotted a top-floor flat. "I have never lived at such a height before," she said, smiling. "I hope the wind doesn't blow us away!"

Goswami and her husband came to Mumbai 20 years ago from West Bengal. Her husband worked as a plumber and she sold bangles and other costume jewellery that she made at home. Will she eventually sell the house? "Never!" she replied emphatically. "We have struggled for years along with Nivara Hakk to get our own place. We would never give it up."



NEW LIFE IN A HIGH-RISE: Slumdweller who once resided in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park look skywards at their new multi-storeyed dwellings in Chandivali on Tuesday. The 30 families were the first of a group of 4,142 households which will be shifted in the next ten days. **Reports and more pictures on P 5**









































Pyramid
MEGASTORE

McDonald's
FAMILY RESTAURANT

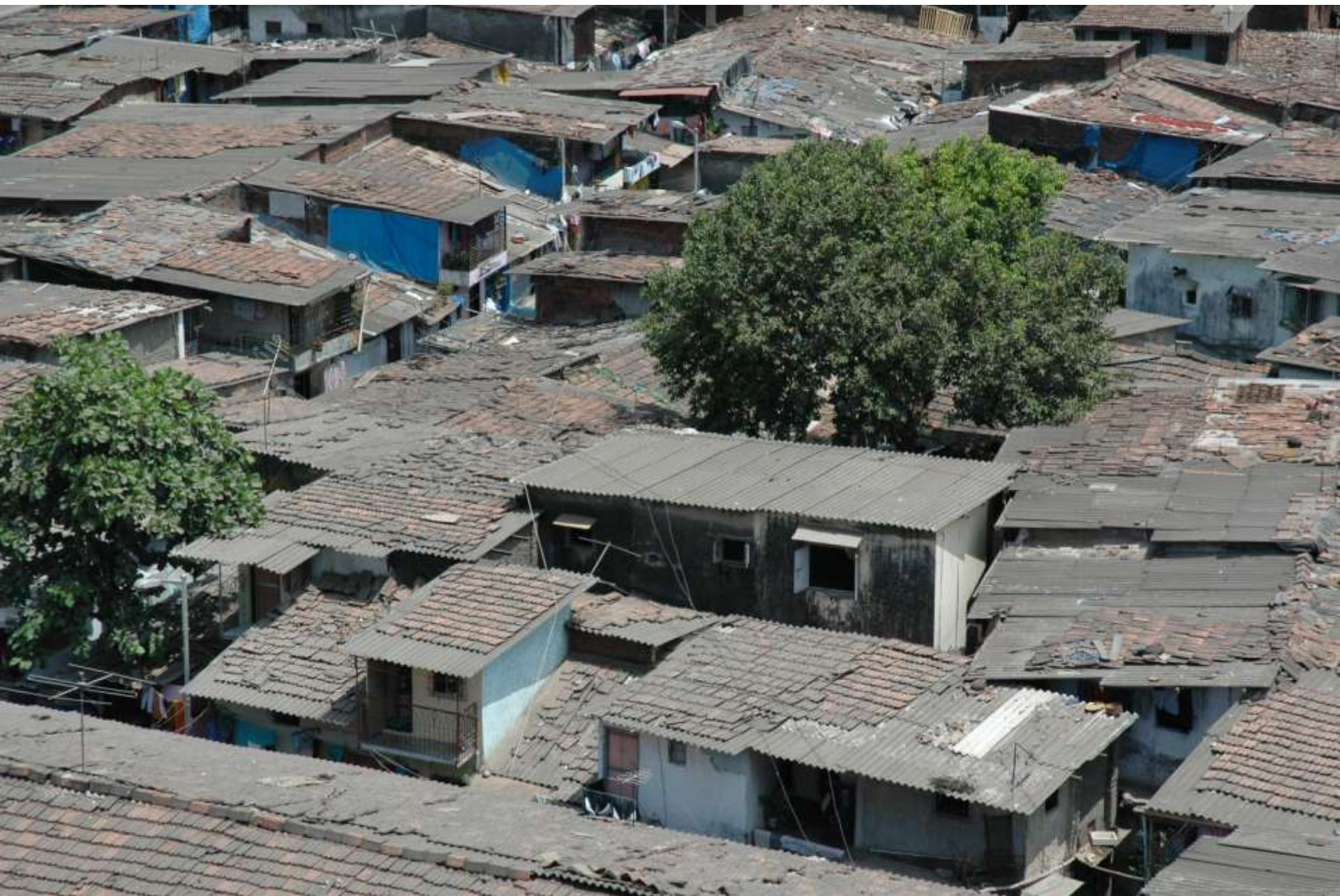
McDonald's
FAMILY RESTAURANT

MNG

crossroads























FREE WAY

**Divestment Ministry
has favoured allowing
PSUs to bid for EIL.**



**ONGC has formed jt venture
with BHEL and GAIL has
tied up with L&T for bidding.**

**Govt is selling 51% of its
holding of 90.40%
through strategic sale.**

IS RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT EFFECTIVE?

THE Karnataka Right to Information Act (KRIA) was enacted in 2000 and implemented in July 2002 after the relevant rules were notified. KRIA is one of the better-drafted laws when compared to other States. It fulfils most of the essentials for an ideal freedom of information law.

For instance, KRIA imposes a duty on the public authority to disclose information suo moto and prescribes a simple procedure for accessing information. The penalty on officials for failing to provide information and recovery of the penalty from their salaries is something unique in India. Besides, a limited number of exclusions have widened the KRIA net. Yet the usage of KRIA over the past two years has brought to focus some of its loopholes as well as the reluctance of the administration to implement the law. First let's look at the legal defects. KRIA is applicable to all State Government offices, authorities created by an Act of the State legislature and organisations funded by the State Government.

But what about private institutions like colleges and schools, which receive government land and tax concessions? Should not citizens have access to information from these institutions? A peculiar situation may arise shortly when the electricity supply companies in Karnataka will be privatised. The present government companies will automatically go out of KRIA. This is what has happened in Delhi. It is essential that KRIA be amended to this extent.

It is the responsibility of the 'competent authority' to furnish information under KRIA. Section 2(a) defines competent authority as 'the head of the office or any officer or person as may be notified by the State Government for the pur-

pose of this Act'. Thanks to the Government, a large number of competent authorities have been notified. But in many cases these authorities are not the Heads of Offices or Sections, but subordinate officers controlled by officers whose permission and leadership influences the furnishing of information. The subordinate official may not have the requisite competence and knowledge to decide whether the information sought is privileged or not.

It is unfortunate that the word 'information' used in KRIA and the word 'document' used in the application (Form-A) has caused some confusion. The Nagarika Seva Trust, a Bangalore-based environment group, which has filed over 100 applications, has been denied information because of this misinterpretation. KRIA defines information as "any matter in respect of the affairs of the administration or decision of a public authority". Whereas Form A has a question 'Details of the document required.'

Competent Authorities are of the view that if the required 'document' is not available, the same can be denied under KRIA. In their view information should be confined to such documentary material produced by an office for its reference and readily available. If this narrow view is taken, perhaps no worthwhile information will be available. It is true that no one department or office can be a depository of all governmental information. While some is generated in-house, a lot more is received from other departments. Secondly all information may not be in a presentable form. It needs to be fine-tuned. If a citizen wants to have information, which involves several departments, a larger time frame may be fixed to furnish the infor-

CONSUMER Notes

mation. Right to information presupposes a system of scientific Record Management.

What the Law intends cannot be frustrated by an enabling Rule. The Rules framed under the KRIA intends to do exactly this. Rule 4 (6) (ii) says that application can be returned if it is incomplete, defective or the purpose is not clearly mentioned. KRIA needs to be amended suitably, also because it suffers from serious lacunae relating to Appeals.

It is time an independent body is constituted to review the working of KRIA and its implementation. In developed countries we have Public Information Commissioners who regulate the operation of freedom of information law. They also identify problem areas and suggest improvements. In India the Delhi Right to Information Act provides for a council for information consisting of ministers, bureaucrats, journalists, lawyers and representatives of the civil society. The council monitors the implementation of the RTI and submits reports to the State Government. Similarly the Maharashtra Right to Information Act provides for creation of a Council at the State and Revenue Division level.

Non-response from public authorities needs to be taken seriously. The Nagarika Seva Trust, which has filed 101 applications under KRIA, has received information in only one case within the prescribed time and 19 responses after 15 days. Similar is the experience of Public Affairs Center (PAC) and other civil society groups.

Y.G. Muralidharan

(The writer is a consumer activist and may be reached by e-mail at creator@siify.com or on phone at: 25403170, 25403200)

Adventures of an RTI explorer

You have the right to obtain information. Getting your hands on it is quite another story

For several years I have been planning to use the Right To Information (RTI) to get information and facts on things that bother me in the city. I read up on the subject, talked with friends, blogged about it, but never managed to take the most important step, that of using the right and asking for information. I even explored every possibility in which I could get information without having to visit the Pune Corporation office. Unfortunately that's not possible. You have to work hard for your information.

So I picked a Saturday when I did not have much else planned. Picked some RTI form samples from the net and filled up three forms asking for information from the PMC. The first form asked information about footpaths/pavements in Pune. The second about parking provisions that commercial buildings need to make as per corporation rules and the third asking for information about the PMC's e-governance initiatives. I will write details of the information I sought and the response I got, when I do get the information. For the time being I will stick to the submitting the form part. A friend of mine, who has been complaining for years about the stray pig menace in Shivteerth Nagar, Kothrud, accompanied me hoping to submit his complaint to the relevant department and to finally rid his locality of the pigs. Considering that there is so much talk about RTI lately, I was under this impression that RTI mechanisms in the PMC would be in place. I expected to just have to hand over my request forms to a central RTI officer and he/she would take care of forwarding them to appropriate departments and getting me the information I sought.

On hindsight I find it funny that I actually expected it to be so. Any-

way, we entered the PMC building at about 2.30 pm. The first thing we noted was that the PMC does not believe in signages. So, unless you ask for a place and then double and triple check the information, you won't find anything. As for RTI, there was a board that listed the departments and the designation of the person who would look at RTI matters. But whom that person was and how one was supposed to find him was left up to the tracking skills of the visitor. Also everything in the building was written only in Marathi. Marathi that even Maharashtrians won't understand. Most English educated Maharashtrians like me would not know that *Kanishtha abhiyanta* means Junior Engineer and *Sankhyeki* means Statistics. Marathi boards should certainly be present, but why not also have boards in Hindi and English.

However there was an enquiry desk present. The lady there told us that there was no centralised right to information section and I would have to go to the respective departments. So for footpaths, I was told 1st floor *Puatha* (Roads) and for parking rules 1st floor *Bandhkam* (Building). The tricky one was the websites. No one had any idea which department looked at the PMC websites. We kept being pointed to people whose apt description would be 'they sit with computers so they might know'. Many enquiries later we were told that *Sankhyeki* might be the department to visit.

However this department was hidden away on the 5th floor and could be reached by only one particular lift. There are numerous sections and many stairs and lifts all over the building, so we kept getting lost every two minutes, found our way back to the main lobby and then made a fresh attempt. We got to the roads department at about 3 pm and were told



GUEST COLUMN

HARSHAD OAK

that the lady who looked at RTI was out for lunch and no one else could help us. So we visited the building department. We could not locate any boards here as well and we kept being sent to a particular engineer's PA for directions. He told us to go to the ward office and said that nothing will get done here. When we said that this did not make sense and we wanted to meet a senior official, he threw a few *sabab* names and asked us to wait. We waited and waited and waited for the *sabab* to turn up, but they did not.

We now had spent over an hour, had met 20 people and got nothing done. We were irritated and we decided to meet the commissioner. We stormed to the top floor expecting the commissioner to listen to us and get things sorted out. As we climbed up to the fourth floor, I noticed that as you start getting nearer the commissioner's office the building starts getting a lot cleaner. We reached the commissioner's door. I expected the guards to drive us away and so explained our problem. The guards were relaxed and heard us out. They then told us that the commissioner was last seen in office three days back, so we weren't getting any help here. By now we were crestfallen and disheartened. It was obvious to us why towns have a field day

in government offices. A common man can never get any work done unless he puts in extraordinary effort. Like Dementors in the Harry Potter series, these offices had sapped us of all our zeal to do any good for society. Dejected, we sat at one of the rare visitor benches and talked about the evils of India and why our friends who had migrated seemed justified when you face such situations.

After a few minutes we partly recovered and decided to get at least one thing done. So we headed back to the roads department. Fortunately, the lady had got back from lunch. So finally at about 4 pm a PMC staffer read my first form. Despite reading up quite a bit about how to use RTI, I wasn't clear about how the payment was to be made. Was I supposed to affix a court fee stamp for an amount that covered expenses like photocopying or was I supposed to affix a ten rupee stamp and later pay separately for other expenses? I was now told that while submitting the form you only need to fix the ten rupee stamp and other expenses are to be paid later. However the stamp was not available in the PMC office and had to be bought from a vendor across the road. A rickety wooden stair took me to the stamp vendor. After a short wait I managed to buy the stamps I required. The lady in the roads department now accepted my form. By this time, it was 4.30 pm on Sat afternoon and we had just one hour left till closing time. We rushed to the building department; here the section where the missing *sabab* were supposed to be sitting had now been closed for the public. The person at this entrance however saved our day as he pointed us to a window where, a lady, displeased for reasons unknown to us, accepted our form.

We then found the Statistics department. Like in all other

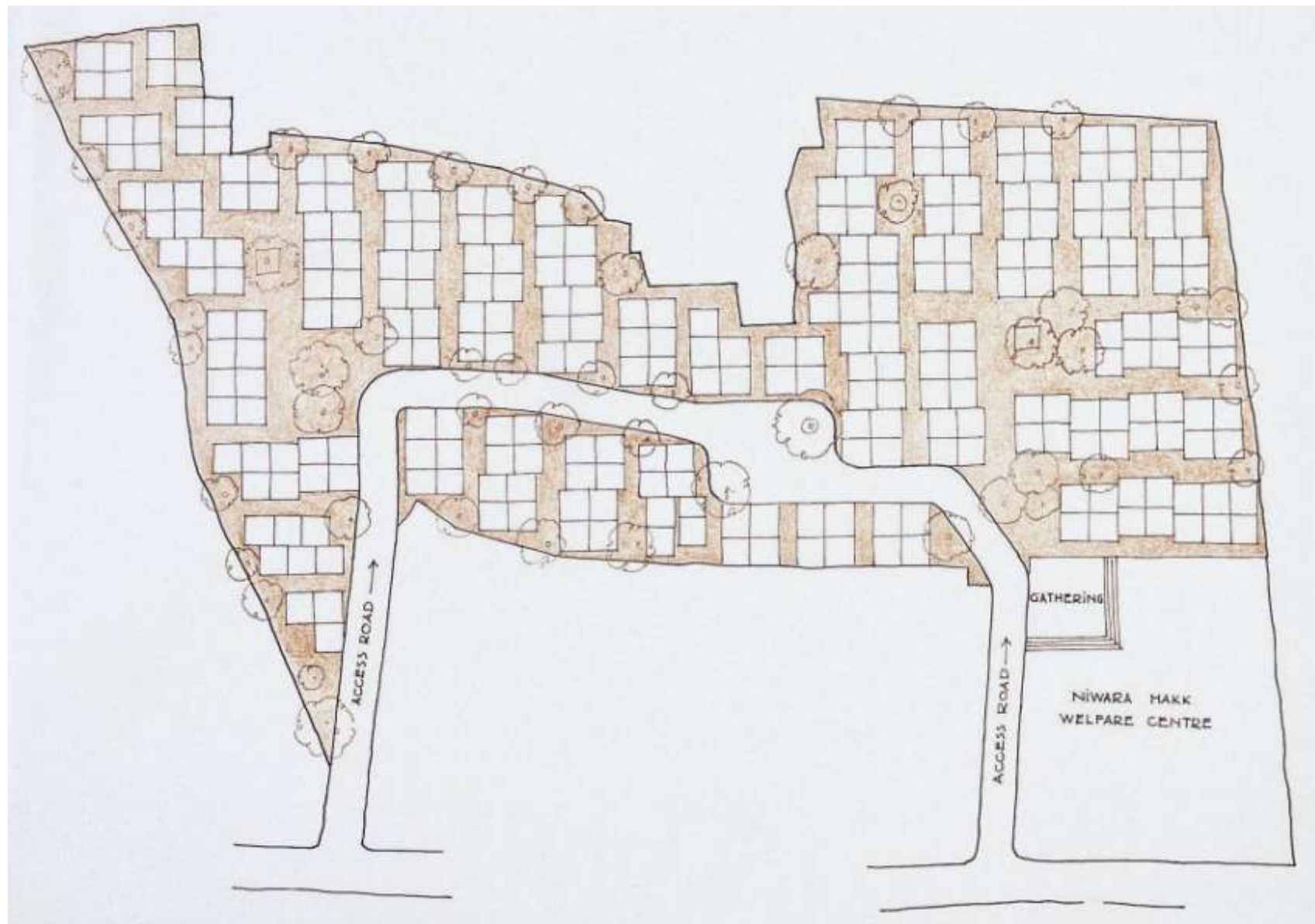
departments, here too, the staff had no idea who was responsible for RTI work. They asked me to visit another department and if that didn't work, to meet the people from the IT company working for the PMC. I told them that PMC officials and not contractors should be giving info, but to no avail. So I went to second floor and now presented my form to a person from this department. He asked us to wait and took our forms to the contractor company people. He returned after quite some time and promptly sent me back to Statistics. As they now had no option, the Statistics department accepted my form. I was instructed to write on it why I wanted the info. I said that RTI does not compel me to give reasons. So he suggested that I write 'For public welfare'. I thought it better to comply.

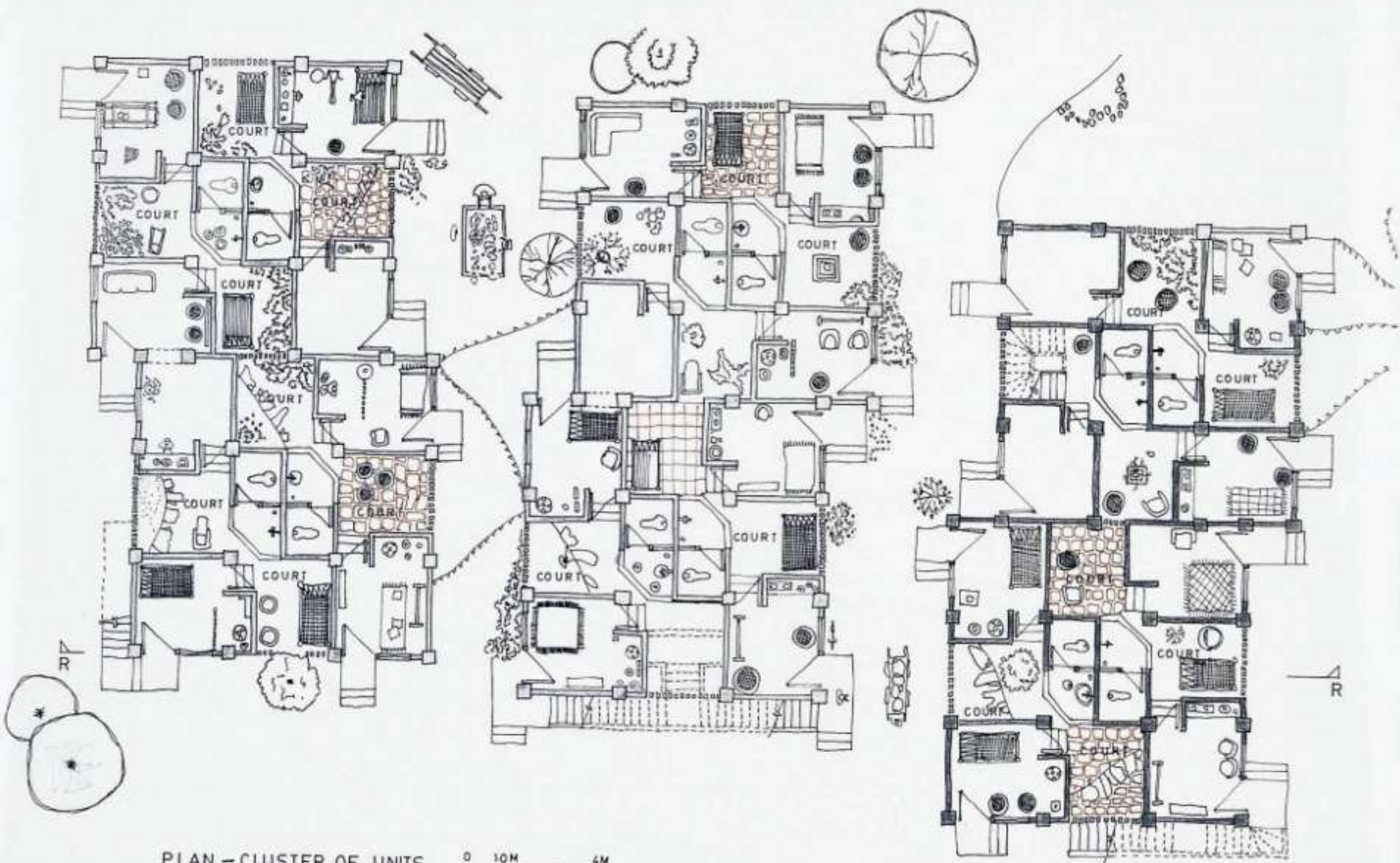
The only matter now left was that of the pigs. We came across the office of the *ChakaChak* Pune team. My friend told them about how garbage was everywhere except the bin and how pigs fearlessly roamed the streets. Our complaint was noted down in the proper department and we were assured that the pigs would be taken care of when their team next visits the area. So we wound up our historic visit to the PMC. Although we struggled to get things done, the PMC staff was polite and interested, though completely ignorant about RTI.

The current status is that the information I have asked for is still hidden away in a file somewhere. However as there's a limit of 30 days for RTI, I am still hopeful. The pigs, however, are still and hearty in Kothrud. It now looks like unless the pigs themselves decide to migrate from Pune due to the traffic and commotion, they are here to stay.

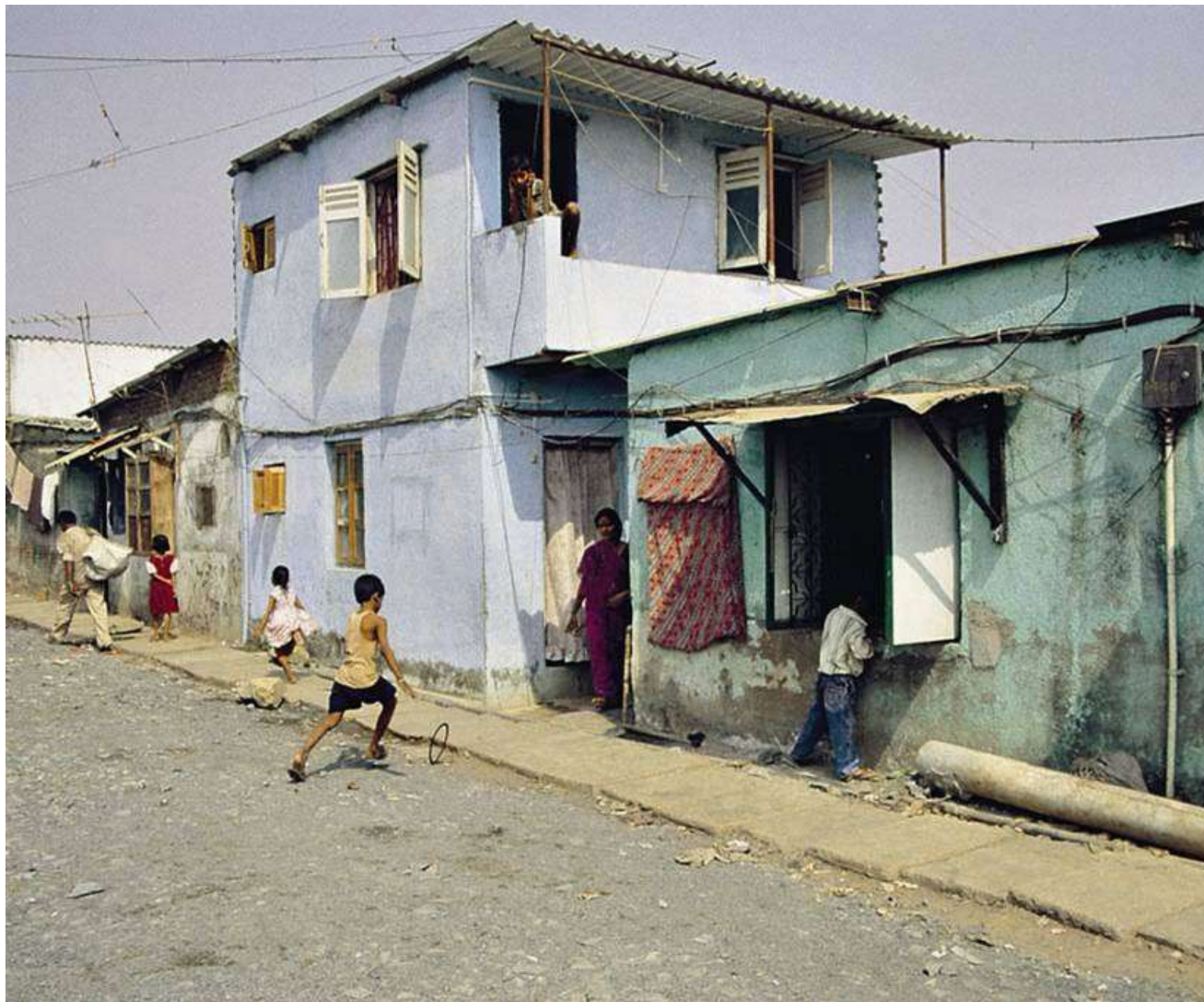
(The author can be reached at harshad@righttrix.com)













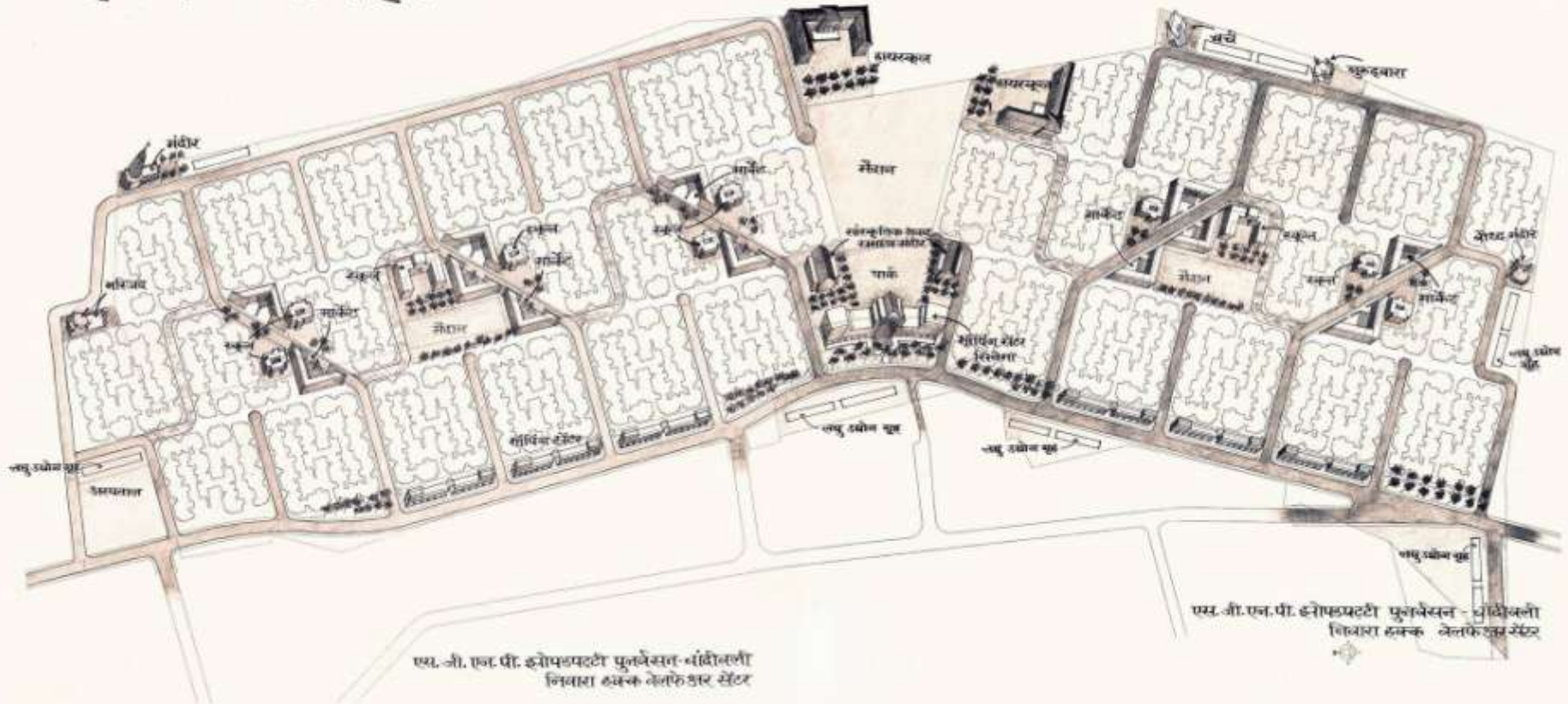


यहाँ हमारे अपने घरों के साथ-साथ खुले मैदान और कई सामाजिक सुविधाएँ होंगी.

- वाहनों की रचना परिचित समूहों और सोसायटियों को कायम रखेगी.
- सार्वजनिक सहभाग और व्यवस्थापन नियंत्रण इस रचना का मुख्य हेतु रहेगा.
- हमारे सिर्फ पाँच मंजिली होंगी.

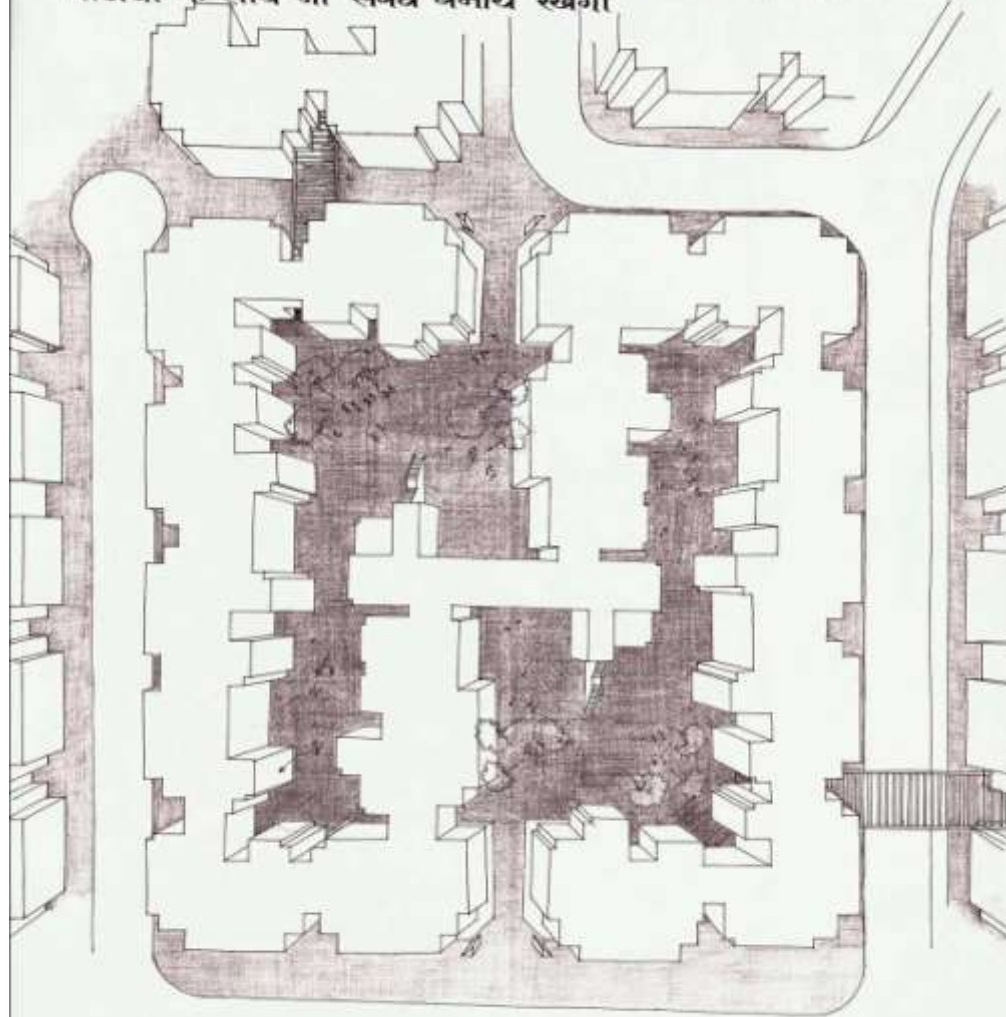
हमारा नया शहर.....

- एक बड़ा चार एकर क्षेत्र का मैदान शहर का केंद्रबिंदु होगा, इस के व्यतिरिक्त एक एकर के दो और खेल मैदान और हर बाड़ी में दो चौक होंगे.
- कुल सोलह स्कूल होंगे, जिसमें दो हायरस्कूल, चार सेकेंडरी स्कूल और दस प्राथमरी स्कूल होंगे.
- दो अस्पताल और कई छोटे क्लिनिक और दवाखाने आरोग्य विषयक हर जरूरतों को पूरा करेंगे.
- दो बड़े सांस्कृतिक भवन और कई धार्मिक स्थल सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देंगे.
- रोजगार उपलब्धी के लिए हमारे शहर में 250 लघु उद्योग गृह बनाये जायेंगे.



एक बाड़ी -

बाड़ी हमारे शहर की एक महत्वपूर्ण रचनात्मक अंग है. हम इनके सुनियोजित, सुरक्षित और खुले वातावरणमें साथ मिलके रहेंगे. बालबाड़ी, बालक केंद्र, महिला विकास केंद्र और सोसायटी ऑफिस जैसी हमारी आवश्यक जरूरतें अपने-अपने बाड़ी में ही पूरी होंगी हमारी बाड़ी हमारे शहर का अविभाज्य भाग होते हुये दूसरे बाड़ीयों के साथ भी संबंध बनाये रखेगी



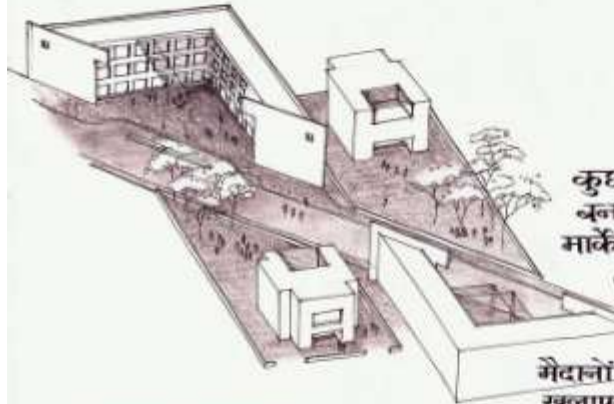
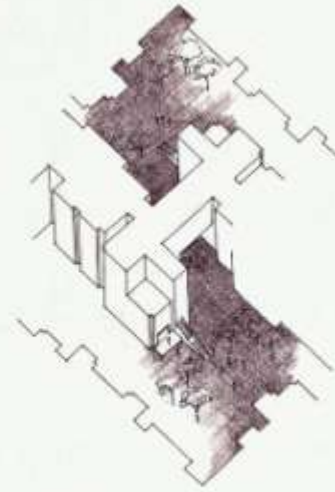
एस.जी.एन.पी. इन्फोफुटपट्टी पुनर्वसन - चंडीकनी
निवासा हक्क वेलफेयर सेंटर

बेलफेअर सेंटर-

हर बाड़ी में दो सोसायटीयाँ होंगी, जिनके लिये चार बालबाड़ी, दो बालक केंद्र, दो महिला विकास केंद्र और दो सोसायटी ऑफिस की सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध रहेंगी।

एक मध्यवर्ती इमास्त एक पुल जरिये संकुल के बीच खुले मैदान का दो चौकों में विभाजन करेगी।

हर सोसायटी एक चौक का उपभोग लेगी जिसके आसपास सभी सार्वजनिक सुविधाएँ रहेंगी।



मार्केट-

कुछ बाड़ीयों के बीच एक मार्केट बनाया जायेगा. इस तरह के पाँच मार्केट हमारे शहर में होंगे. जिनमें दुकाने, बैंक, पोस्ट ऑफिस और इस तरह की सुविधाएँ होंगी. दो प्राथमिक स्कूल मार्केट के पास होंगे, जिनके मैदानों की वजह से मार्केट के आसपास खुलापन रहेगा. भीड़ का एहसास कम होगा.

पदपथ प्रणाली-

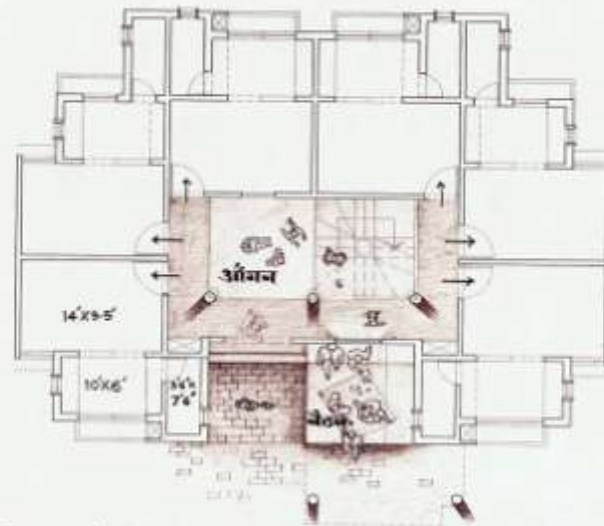
पदपथ प्रणाली हमारे शहर का मुख्य घटक है, जिसमें वाहनों से कोई रुकावट नहीं होगी. यह पदपथ संकुलों को मार्केट, स्कूल, सांस्कृतिक भवन, खेलमैदान और सार्वजनिक स्थलों से जोड़ते हैं. इन पदपथों पर जगह-जगह बाड़ीयों के प्रवेशद्वार होंगे.

यह पदपथ प्रणाली हमारे शहर की बच्चों और वृद्धों के लिये सुरक्षित बनायेगी और साथ ही साथ हममें एकता की भावना जागृत करेगी.

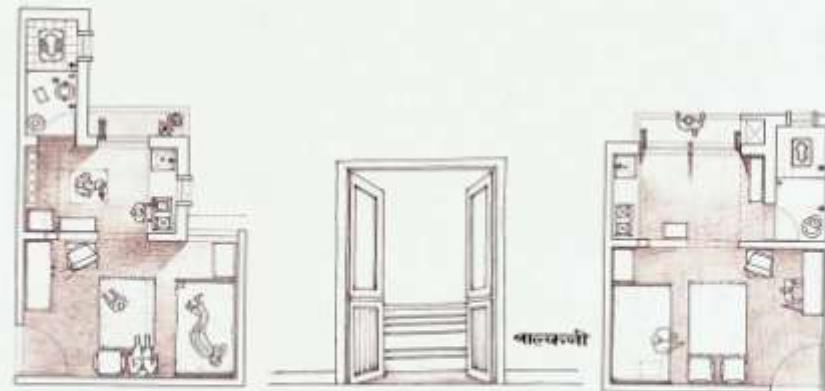


एस. जी. एन. पी. इन्फोप्लेटा पुनर्वसन - चौकीकरी
निवास हबक, बेलफेअर सेंटर

मेरा घर



इस बिल्डिंग में मेरे घर के साथ-साथ और 33 घर होंगे। हर मंजिल पर ७ घर होंगे। बिल्डिंग में बैठक और आँगन भी होगा। आँगन के जरिये बिल्डिंग में उजाला आयेगा।



मेरे घर में एक कमरा, एक रसोईघर और एक सेंडास-बाथरूम होगा। इसका क्षेत्र 225 स्क्वे. फू. (कार्पेट) होगा। हर कमरे को बाहर से सीधा खिड़की होगी। रसोईघर के साथ बाल्कनी होगी, इसका उपयोग बैठने, कपड़े सुखाने और अन्य कामों के लिए होगा। बाल्कनी से घर में उजाला आयेगा और हवा खेलेगी।





NGO, not developer, will construct slum project

Feb 6 2003 . TOI Thursday
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Nagari Nivara Hakk Samiti, an NGO fighting for housing rights under the leadership of actress and MP, Shabana Azmi, will be building India's largest rehabilitation project for the urban poor at Chandivli. As many as 16,500 families displaced from the Borivli national park will be accommodated in a township to be developed on 1.89 lakh sq. metres of land.

General secretary of the Samiti P.K. Das, who is an architect, told TNN on Wednesday that the project will be undertaken by the Samiti and not by Sumer corporation to whom the land belongs. He said following a PIL filed by environmentalists about 65,000 families who had encroached on the national park had to be moved out. Of them, 33,000 families were entitled to rehabilitation since their huts existed prior to 1995. As per the policy of the Maharashtra government, those occupying pre-1995 structures were eligible to alternate accommodation.

Mr Das said Sumer Corporation approached the Samiti with an offer to give 1.89 sq. metres of its land at Chandivli, which was earlier used for quarrying, for rehabilitating 16,500 families. The balance area of 1.24 lakh sq. metres owned by the firm was in the no-development zone. "In return, the company would get transfer of development rights (TDR) that it could sell in the open market. The TDR is being given strictly as per government policy under the slum rehabilitation act and there is absolutely no illegality involved," he maintained. The entire project is transparent, he noted.

The township project will cost about Rs 420 crores. Each of the 16,500 families will contribute Rs 25,000 and the remaining amount will be given by Sumer corporation. The township will consist of 14 schools, two hospitals, six places of worship, 700 shops, two community halls, 180 welfare centres, 180 balwadis, a four-acre maidan and 26 neighbourhood open spaces.

When pointed out that the MMRDA had earlier rejected this plot for the rehabilitation of slum-dwellers since it had huge craters, Mr Das said with proper filling this land could be used for constructing the township. "The cost will go up because of the filling that is needed, but technically it is possible to build on this land," he noted. Mr Das said the project proposal would be jointly submitted by the NGO and the state government to the high court which is hearing the PIL.

Mr Das and Shabana Azmi made a power point presentation of the project to chief minister Sushilkumar Shinde here on Monday. Referring to the stay granted by Mr Shinde to the release of TDR to Sumer corporation, Mr Das said the CM, who had taken charge barely a fortnight ago, wanted to study the project thoroughly before taking a final decision. Hence he has temporarily stayed the grant of TDR pending an intra-department review, he noted. Asked about the huge profits that Sumer corporation stands to make by selling the TDR, Mr Das said the gain accruing to the developer was bound to be huge since the land being used for slum rehabilitation is vast. "The important thing to note is that there is total transparency in the project," he observed.









































New township raises the bar for slum rehab

Asia's largest slum re-housing project in Chandivli gets its first occupants

Madhurima Nandy
Mumbai, May 1

SAVITA RAO is looking forward to a good night's sleep after three decades of disturbed slumber. She has just moved into a spanking new studio apartment in Chandivli, 15 km south of her ramshackle tenement bordering Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

"Every night, we would sleep in fear that a leopard would pick up our children," said Rao, 45, who lived on the edge of the forest.

On Tuesday, Rao and other families were re-housed as part of a slum upgradation scheme. Some of them turned emotional, their eyes glistening with tears as they accepted keys to their flats in a 45-acre township that raises the bar for slum rehabilitation projects.

Instead of the unimaginative and shoddily constructed buildings that are the hallmark of slum rehabilitation projects, the Chandivli township has been designed from the bottom-up, with the socio-economic needs of low-income groups in mind (see 'The new design'). In the past, poor design has contributed to slum dwellers selling out and moving back to shanty towns.

If the township succeeds, it could become a model for other

projects. The success of slum upgradation is critical for improving the deplorable living conditions of half the city's residents, and a prerequisite for Mumbai becoming a world-class finance hub.

The Chandivli slum re-housing project is also the largest in Asia. By the end of the year, twelve thousand families will move in: equivalent to one-fourth the population of the city's 'A' ward, consisting of Colaba, Cuffe Parade and Fort. In ten days, one third of them will have shifted.

The township is unique also because groups usually at loggerheads with one another have collaborated: the government, builder Sumer Corporation, independent architect P.K. Das and NGO Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti.

Nivara Hakk initiated the project eight years ago after environmental groups took legal action to get the slums removed on the grounds that they were encroaching on the park. The NGO has been closely involved with the project to ensure that the quality of construction is good and that the allocation of flats is fair and transparent, its activists said. Other slum re-housing projects have been ridden with corruption on these two fronts.

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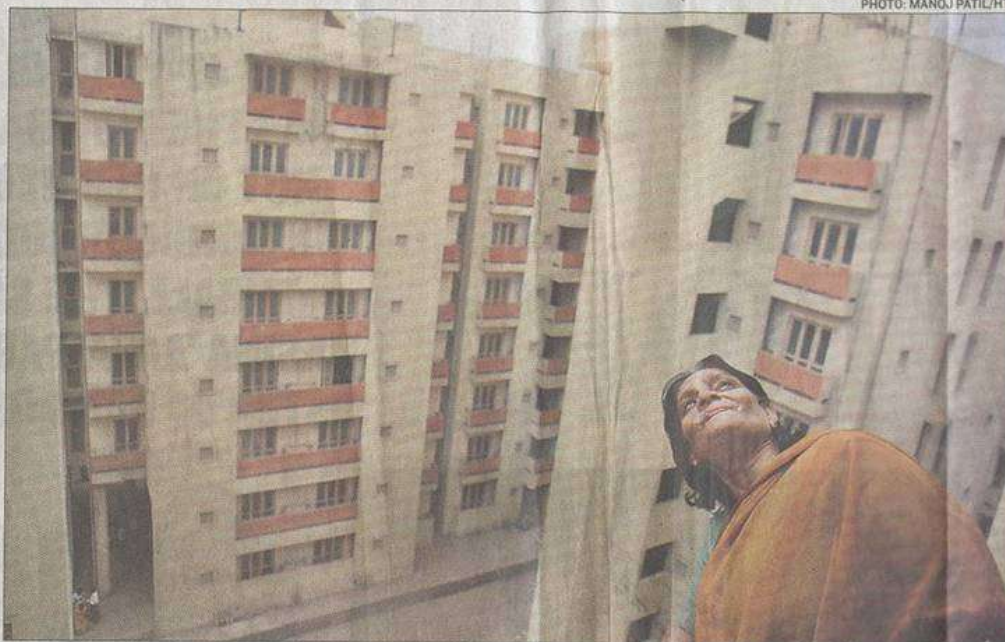


PHOTO: MANUJ PATIL/HT

The new design

- A township spread over 45 acres in Chandivli
- Very close to the up-market Hiranandani Gardens in Powai
- 12,000 housing units spread over 15 clusters, with 16 buildings in each cluster
- Four buildings in a sub-cluster, which open out into a courtyard to enable community bonding
- No dormitory-type corridors, but two flats on each side for good ventilation
- A small foyer in every building, in an effort to create more communal space
- Well lit and ventilated flats
- Nicely tiled bathrooms
- Drying balconies
- Central maidan
- Three parks

A NEW BEGINNING: Asha Giri Goswami in the balcony of her Chandivli flat.

UNLIKELY PARTNERS



Shabana Azmi
Member of Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti



Vilasrao Deshmukh
Chief Minister, chairman of SRA



P.K. Das
Architect and member of Nivara Hakk Suraksha Samiti



Ramessh Shah
Partner in Sumer Corporation, a construction firm

This township is an example where an NGO has helped the government, slumdwellers and the developer to come together to build a township.

The township shouldn't become an improved slum. Workshops should be held to make sure that residents take appropriate care.

We tried to design the township in a way that would preserve the communal life that people are used to in slums.

It's a very important project for me. I spent three-and-a-half years from morning to night on the site. It is a one-of-a-kind project in India.

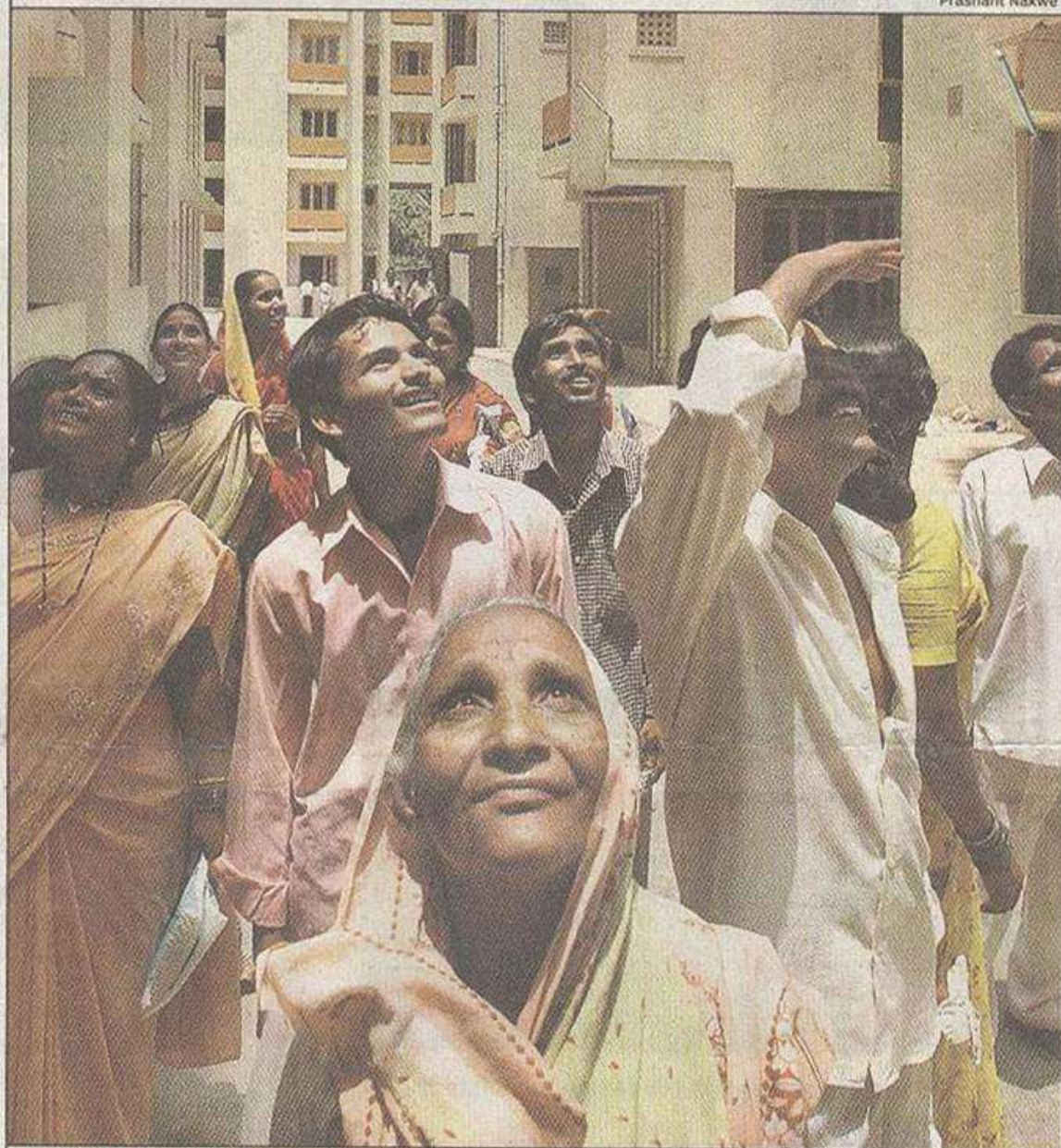
'I'll never give this house up'

Madhurima Nandy
Mumbai, May 1

ASHA GIRI Goswami, 40, has never lived in a high-rise building. After 20 years of living precariously in a shanty town on the fringes of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, on Tuesday she finally entered her home.

"This township was a dream for all of us and we have seen it develop from scratch," she said. An added surprise was that she was allotted a top-floor flat. "I have never lived at such a height before," she said, smiling. "I hope the wind doesn't blow us away!"

Goswami and her husband came to Mumbai 20 years ago from West Bengal. Her husband worked as a plumber and she sold bangles and other costume jewellery that she made at home. Will she eventually sell the house? "Never!" she replied emphatically. "We have struggled for years along with Nivara Hakk to get our own place. We would never give it up."



NEW LIFE IN A HIGH-RISE: Slumdweller who once resided in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park look skywards at their new multi-storeyed dwellings in Chandivali on Tuesday. The 30 families were the first of a group of 4,142 households which will be shifted in the next ten days. **Reports and more pictures on P 5**





निवारा आमचा अधिकार आहे.
60% slum population occupies 8% land in Mumbai.

Stop SRA.

Another world is possible

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Stop SRA

NHSS
YUVA



गिरणी कामगारांचा एकच निर्धार
सर्वांना घर, सर्वांना रोजगार


Another world is possible



Democracy
Housing Rights
and
Social Change

Thank You