



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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SC RAPS SIKKIM HC CHIEF JUSTICE DINAKARAN FOR DELAYING TACTICS, BUT OKAYS CHANGE IN GRAFT PROBE PANEL 16

RAHUL UPS ANTE AGAINST MAYA, KICKS OFF YATRA TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR JULY 9 RALLY ON LAND TAKEOVER 17

NEWS DIGEST

Stop arming tribals against Maoists: SC

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Chhattisgarh government to disband and disarm 6,500 special police officers engaged in anti-Maoist operations. Blaming the Maoist violence on the policies of the state, it struck down the centrally-funded scheme to arm tribal youths to fight extremists. Chhattisgarh had recruited the SPOs from among the ranks of the Salwa Judum, a campaign by anti-Maoist tribals who enjoy the support of the state and the political class. **P 16**

If women can fight wars, they can wait tables: HC

If women could fight in wars, why can't they wait tables, was the Bombay high court's question to the state government while hearing a petition challenging the rule that bans women from working after 9.30pm in bars. **P 2**

Outrage over action on Malad youths hits web

Hundreds of netizens from all walks of life hit out at Mumbai police for their action on "dirty dancing" at a Malad lounge, advising the cops to focus on

4 new slums bigger than Dharavi

Mega Shanties Move Northwards From Island City

Clara Lewis | TNN

Mumbai: Dharavi, spread over 557 acres and home to nearly three lakh people, is no longer Asia's largest slum. There at least four larger contenders for the dubious distinction in Mumbai itself, some of them three times the size of Dharavi.

NEW KINGS OF SLUMBAI: P 4 ► Dharavi stands dwarfed, P 4

Strikingly, though, the island city is now largely free of slums except for a few fringe pockets.

The erstwhile smaller slums in the suburbs have metamorphosed into contiguous, large slums. The Kurla-Ghatkopar belt, the Mankhurd-Govandi belt, the Yogi and Yeoor hill slopes stretching from Bhandup to Mulund flanking the Sanjay Gan-



SUPER SPRAWLS

Dharavi has lost its status as Asia's largest slum. It's now rivalled and dwarfed by four slum clusters in Mumbai itself

ISLAND CITY SPARED

There are very few clusters left in the island city: Dharavi, Antop Hill, Geeta Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Worli village

NO RESERVATIONS

55% of the slums are on land reserved for housing | Contrary to popular perception, only 27% of the slum pockets have come up on open spaces or land reserved as natural reserves

POP GOES MUMBAI

In 1991, there were only 23.3 lakh (24.5%) slumdwellers in the city | In 2011, an estimated 78% of the city's population lives in slums | Population density in the suburbs is highest in state: 20,925 persons per sq km

GROUND REALITY

With realty prices climbing, both the middle-class and the low-income groups began moving northwards

— AMITA BHIDE, TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

dhi National Park (SGNP) on the east and Dindoshi on the western flank of the National Park have all eclipsed Dharavi.

While the profile of the suburban slum settlements is still to be established, the Mankhurd-Govandi sprawl that has sprung up at the base of the Deonar dumping ground is known as a "dumping ground" for the city's poor. It has the lowest human development index in the city and is constantly in the news for ma-

nutrition deaths. Moreover, following earlier trends, the slums have come up on hill slopes and mud flats.

The island city, meanwhile, is largely clear of slums except on the fringes, like Dharavi in the north, Antop Hill in the east, Geeta Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar in the south and Worli village in the west. Since 2005, the BMC's action against slumdwellers, as part of its road widening projects, seems to have had a transformative effect. Sig-

nificant initiatives were the clearing of slums along Senapati Bapat Marg from Mahim to Elphinstone Road and on P D'Mello Road from the General Post Office, Mumbai CST, to Wadala.

The exercise of mapping the slums was done by architect and civic activist P K Das, who has been involved with the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park slumdwellers through the Nivara Hakk Sangharsh Samiti.

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