

Bhendi Bazaar

August 30, 2022

In news— Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a 'stop work' notice to the Saifi Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT) which is executing the Bendi Bazar project.

About the project-

- Bhendi Bazaar redevelopment is arguably the **single-largest urban renewal project in the country**.
- The **project will transpose the 200-year-old market**, made up of commercial and residential buildings, into a well-planned neighbourhood of swanky high-rises.
- The redevelopment project, being undertaken by the SBUT(a not-for-profit public charitable trust), will contain eight clusters of buildings for the 20,000-odd residents of the locality.
- This project was initiated in 2009 and construction work finally began in 2016.

History of Bhendi Bazaar-

- Bhendi Bazaar is a market in South Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- It is over a century old and its name is a **colloquial version of "behind the bazaar"**, a term used by the British to identify this area behind Crawford Market.
- **Set up as a migrant camp for labourers working at the Mumbai docks**, it expanded gradually to accommodate traders who set up all manner of businesses.
- The neighbourhood's infrastructure developed according to the needs of the day.
- **Chawl-style housing** was created to cater to the largely male populace, but, as Bhendi Bazaar grew, both in terms of wealth and opportunities, people began to settle here with their families.
- **Dawoodi Bohras** migrated from Gujarat and Yemen

throughout the 20th century.

- Apart from the existing mosques, the building of the Raudat Tahera in the 1960s—the **mausoleum of the religious leaders of the Dawoodi Bohras, Syedna Taher Saifuddin and Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin**—turned this place into a pilgrimage centre.
- Soon, Bhendi Bazaar came to be identified as a temporal as well as spiritual home for the Bohras.
- **India's most wanted gangster, Dawood Ibrahim, lived here once**, as did some of the **greatest qawwals of Mumbai**, like Aziz Naza, who broke all records with his song Jhoom Barabar Jhoom Sharabi.
- While the area had a varied demographic to begin with, **at present it has a Muslim majority**, with a large concentration of Dawoodi Bohras.