

FIR filed, Bhiwandiwalla trust land transactions under lens

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Navi Mumbai: The LT Marg police station has filed an FIR in a land grab and cheating case in Uran taluka in connection with the Mumbai-based Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandiwalla (KBHMB) Trust.

A case under various sections of the IPC, like cheating, fraud, criminal breach of trust, was filed against three accused, including the then Tehsildar-Uran, on March 15.

Using fake documents, one of the accused had sought removal of the trust's name from land records and had claimed sole ownership of the trust properties. The accused even claimed 12.5% developed land from Cidco by submitting fake documents, claimed complainant Farida Dubash, who represents the trust.

Some plots were also sold by the accused to third parties using forged affidavits, thereby causing financial losses of about Rs 80 crore to the trust.

Uran BJP MLA Mahesh Baldi is one among those who purchased the trust land by paying Rs 16.45 crore in 2018, according to documents accessed by TOI. The land of the trust is spread over Chanje, Mhativli and Borpakhadi villages of Uran taluka.

Complainant Dubash is one of the great-great grand-



Uran BJP MLA Mahesh Baldi is among those who had purchased trust land worth Rs 16.45 crore in 2018

daughters of Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandiwalla. TOI has learnt that the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police is now probing the case.

"I have filed a complaint and an FIR has been registered with the Mumbai Police as the trust is registered in Mumbai. There are powerful people who can influence the case. Multiple FIRs filed in Navi Mumbai have seen no light of the day for years as investigation remains incomplete," said Dubash.

When contacted, Uran BJP MLA Mahesh Baldi said, "Between 20 and 22 acres of land was purchased from Dosu Bhiwandiwalla (one of those named as accused in the FIR).

Sale deeds were made for about 17 acres of land. Certain issues have cropped up and are being sorted out," said Baldi.

In 2011, the state government formed a three-member inquiry panel to probe fraudulent conversion of lands in Navi Mumbai owned by the Sir Mohammed Yusuf Trust, Mumbai (645 acres), the Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandiwalla (KBHMB) Trust, Mumbai (2,000 acres in 18 villages), and the Sri Swami Hatiramji Mutt Trust, Tirupati (82 acres). Some of Navi Mumbai's top builders were named in a report submitted by the committee.

Local activists say no action has been taken against the accused so far.