

Uran tehsildar puts on hold transfer of Bhiwandiwalla trust land to BJP MLA

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: The Uran tehsildar has put on hold the change of ownership of land from the name of Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandiwalla trust to BJP Uran MLA Mahesh Baldi. Rahul Mundke, sub-divisional officer, Panvel, confirmed this to TOI.

TOI had earlier reported that the LT Marg police in Mumbai had filed an FIR against three accused, including the then tehsildar-Uran for the alleged fraudulent sale of the trust's land in Uran taluka to various individuals, including Baldi. The MLA had purchased around 20 acres of land from the trust.

The tehsildar has stalled the change of ownership in the 7/12 land extracts, local sources told this newspaper on Monday. The tehsildar's decision was based on a complaint by the Uran Samajik Sanstha (USS), a local organisation. The USS alleged that Baldi had declared an income of Rs 2.10 crore in the last five fiscal years (2014-15 to 2018-2019), but had suspiciously paid Rs 16.45 crore for the trust land.

Three land transactions were done between July and



The trust land in Uran's Channe village where excavation work is on

Massive excavation works on plot a threat to Dronagiri fort, ONGC plant

Navi Mumbai: Large-scale excavation on the 20-acre sprawl of the Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandiwalla trust land in Channe village, Uran, poses a threat to Dronagiri fort and the ONGC plant, alleged local activists. Conservation activists of the Uran Samajik Sanstha (USS), who have complained to the local authorities, said torrential rains would lead to landslides because of the excavation. "A report has been sought from the Uran plant authorities regarding the excavation," said an ONGC spokesperson. The state archaeological department is also looking into the digging work, said a local source. "Massive excavation has been going on for a few years on the three plots located at the foothills of Dronagiri hill. While the ONGC Uran plant compound wall is adjoining one of the plots, the Dronagiri fort is just a hundred metres away," said Santosh Pawar, general secretary, USS. — **Umesh K Parida**

August 2018, through three different sale deeds, according to

the FIR lodged by Farida Dubash, a member of the Bhi-

wandiwalla family. Her complaint against the fraudulent land sale is being probed by the economic offences wing of the Mumbai police.

Baldi had registered three different sale deeds collectively worth Rs 16.45 crore in July and August 2018, a year ahead of the assembly elections held on October 21, 2019. In his election affidavit, he had shown only Rs 2.10 crore income in the last five financial years.

"The trust land transaction details sought under RTI by our organisation revealed many wrongdoings. There were false affidavits on trust land ownership, monetary transactions etc. The false affidavit was filed by Dosu Bhiwandiwalla (named as an accused in the LT Marg police FIR). Our complaint led the tehsildar to stop the transfer of land even after sale deeds were registered. We wrote to the chief secretary, Raigad collector and one of the trust family members," alleged Sudhakar Patil, president USS. "We learnt about the illegal land deals from TOI first and USS," said Farida Dubash, the complainant. Baldi had earlier admitted he had purchased the land from the trust.