

Mumbai Makeover



Project

Now, golf lovers can look forward to the first tee at a brand new 18-hole course in Kharghar. Spanning 103 hectares, with the Pandav Kada hills forming a scenic backdrop, the golf course, which will also feature a country club, will be situated in Sector 22 at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai.

Benefits

The project, which is slated for completion by June 2010, is being designed by Pacific Coast Design, which has developed over 30 golf courses in Australia, China, Bangkok, and India. Kharghar is already attracting huge investment in real estate - thanks to its proximity to the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport, Reliance Special Economic Zones, the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, and Mumbai's first ever central park.

Cost

The project, apart from a 18-hole golf course will have in-built flood control measure and ancillary facilities of club house, golf academy, etc. and will cost around Rs 50 crore.

Mumbai Musings

- The Konkan Railway project built at an estimated cost of Rs 3,375 crore was the largest in the world till few years back.
- Stretching over three states, the 760 km long railway line was constructed on a BOT (build-operate-transfer) basis.
- It has 179 major bridges and 1,819 minor bridges spanning a lineal waterway of 20.5 km and 92 tunnels aggregating 83.6 km.
- None of the tunnels are over 2 km long! It is the longest line constructed in one stretch and became fully operational on Jan 26, 1998.



'M' for Mumbai

Managing Mangroves

Mangroves act as a natural buffer between the land and the sea and protect the land

from sea erosion. Unfortunately, Mumbai has lost about 40 per cent of its mangrove cover to construction, development, housing and dumping grounds in the past 20 years. Nonetheless a few mangrove patches are still left in the heart of the city, which proves that today's megacity had a luxuriant past of mangrove forests. Major mangroves are seen today in Mumbai along the Vasai Creek, Thane Creek, Manori and Malad, Mahim-Bandra, Versova, Siwari, Mumbra-Diva and few more places.



Beautiful Belapur



CBD Belapur is the third most developed node of Navi Mumbai after Vashi and Nerul. CBD Belapur has a fairly vibrant Central Business District that is moving some of the economy out of congested central Mumbai into the hinterland. CBD Belapur has been growing since the 1990s, and is now home to colleges as well as a number of technology businesses.

The area near Belapur was under Portuguese rule around 1560, before it was captured by the Siddis of Janjira. In those days, the town was called Belawal by the locals, and Sambayo or Shabaz by the Portuguese. In 1682, the Portuguese recaptured Shabaz, only to lose it to the Marathas in 1733, under Chimanji Appa. In 1817, the British East India Company captured the area from the Marathas.

Basically, the area was designed and developed in order to promote businesses. The Reserve Bank of India maintains a branch office at CBD Belapur. Konkan Bhavan building houses important state government office like Director of Town Planning, Public Works Department etc. The CGO (Central Government Office) Complex has offices of Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, Special Crime Branch, MTNL and Court. Other government offices include Cotton Corporation of India Ltd and headquarters of Konkan Railway. State Bank of India has its main servers here, Punjab National Bank, Industrial Development Bank of India Ltd and other nationalised banks have their presence here. CBD Belapur is also home to some of the country's IT and ITES companies.

