

IN FEAR

08

SCARY STATS

The number of unsafe buildings has grown nearly three times over the last year.

UNSAFE BUILDINGS IN 2008

ISLAND CITY: **96**
WESTERN SUBURBS: **198**
EASTERN SUBURBS: **116**
TOTAL: **410**

UNSAFE BUILDINGS IN 2007

ISLAND CITY: **41**
WESTERN SUBURBS: **58**
EASTERN SUBURBS: **57**
TOTAL: **156**

UNSAFE BUILDINGS IN 2006

ISLAND CITY: **89**
WESTERN SUBURBS: **62**
EASTERN SUBURBS: **83**
TOTAL: **234**

At ground zero, many residents refuse to shift

Sharad Vyas | TNN

Mumbai: Between Tuesday afternoon (when TOI spoke to her) and Wednesday morning, when you are reading this, Nooruddin Sheikh would have survived one more day at Municipal Chawl 22/A on Sewree Cross Road. And he would then thank his stars and pray nothing out of the ordinary happens between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning.

You may think Sheikh is being grateful without reason but, once you see his home, you will change the way think. For, the 55-year-old lives in an old ruin built over 70 years ago that is now supported by wooden stilts; water leaks into the tenements from all corners, threatening to inundate his home and walking through the corridor is like walking a tightrope between rats on one side and rain water on the other.

Many of the other tenants left their home over a year ago after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation snapped electricity and water connections but some 10 others, including Sheikh, stayed put.

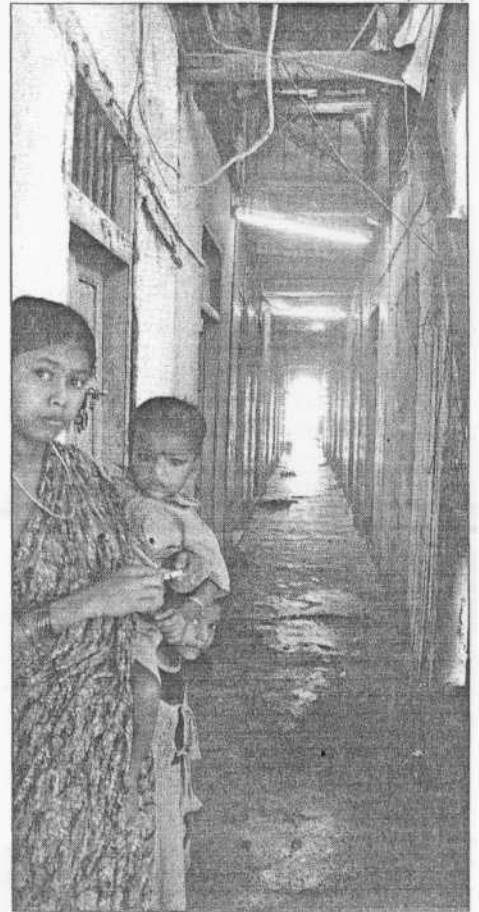
But even they do not have the courage to stay put during the night. When TOI visited them on Tuesday afternoon, they were getting ready to shift to the rooms they rented in a neighbouring building.

Sheikh's building is one of the 40-odd municipal structures, located on BMC land in the island city, that have been declared "most dangerous" following a survey conducted by a team of civic engineers before the monsoon.

The whole of Mumbai has 410 such buildings this year.

Residents of the Sewree building, with 37 residential and 14 commercial units and standing in the middle of a busy market, have been promised alternative accommodation by the BMC at Dahisar.

And the builder, appointed to de-



STAYING PUT: Ten occupants, including this mother and child, have refused to budge from the Municipal Chawl on Sewree Cross Road as the redeveloper has not yet showed them the plan for the new structures. They stay the night at a neighbouring building but come back during the day

molish and redevelop the chawl, has provided rented homes. But, till date, he has refused to give residents any concrete plan of the new structures that will come up. So residents, in turn, have refused to move out.

BMC officials admit that what is happening in the little Sewree chawl is what is happening in most of the BMC-listed dilapidated structures all over Mumbai.

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