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Dharavi plan gets SC nod

Apex court stays Bombay HC order restricting extension of the cut-off date for resettlement

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The last hurdle in the Dharavi makeover is removed. In a major relief to the Maharashtra government, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Bombay High Court order that said the government could not extend the date beyond 1995.

The government wished to extend the cut-off date for the Dharavi resettlement project to January 1, 2000. The court had also issued a notice to a private organisation, Janhit Manch, which moved a PIL in the HC against extension of the cut-off.

The government wanted to extend the cut-off date so that all the dwellers that registered themselves as voters before this deadline could be included in the rehabilitation plan.

A bench headed by chief justice KG Balakrishnan stayed the HC order when solicitor general Goolam E Vahanvati contended that the order was a hurdle in the government's move to implement the redevelopment project. Vahanvati argued that the project has already received bids from international players.



The Dharavi resettlement project, involving an expenditure of about Rs9,250 crore, envisages allotment of a house to each beneficiary. At least 47 top developers, including five foreign real estate companies, have expressed their interest in the redevelopment of about 360 acres of Dharavi.

The five foreign realty concerns that

have expressed interest in the ambitious project are US-based Tishman Speyer, Emaar and ETA Properties from Dubai, Hutchison Whampoa from Hong Kong and Sobha from Kuwait.

The Indian companies who could be in the race for the project are Tata Housing, Videocon, Reliance Land Development, K Raheja, Hiranandani,

Unity Infrastructure, Kanakia, India-Bulls, DLF, Lodha, Dewan Housing, Mahindra Gesco, Ravi Developers, Kumar Builders, Reliance Energy Runwal, Mayfair, Litolier, Akruti Nirman, Dynamix, Neptune, Unitech, Oberoi Construction, Kalpataru, Lok Housing, Mantri, Nirmal Lifestyle, B G Shirke, Lokhandwala and Kohinoor.