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## Bhopal: Collector orders to determine market value of 25.67 acre land in Khajuri Kalan

<u>P Naveen</u> | TNN | Apr 25, 2017, 11:22 IST

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BHOPAL: District collector Nshant Warwade on Monday ordered revenue officials to determine the market value of 25.67 acre of prime land situated near Kahjuri Kalan on the outskirts of BHEL township in compliance with a Supreme Court order.

The said land is in dispute between a farmer Purushottam Lal and Madhya Pradesh Housing Board (MPHB) for the last four decades.

Supreme Court had on April 4 ordered, that the district collector determine the market value in terms of Section 26 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and submit a report before it within three weeks. Farmer and the

MPHB officials were asked to appear before the collector's court by the apex court in the same order.

Varun K Chopra the lawyer who represented the farmer in SC told TOI, "Collector has asked his officials to determine the market value of the land and submit a report within two days."

Next hearing of the case is slated for May 5.

Madhya Pradesh government is apparently worried over losing this land.

In 2015, MP High Court had ordered the state to restore ownership of the said land acquired by housing board to the famers terming the acquisition process illegal.

The MPHB moved the Supreme Court with a submission that they were ready to pay Rs 4.6 crore as compensation to the farmers. The apex court has rejected the offer asking the state government to submit a fresh proposal before it.

"The current market value of this land is more than Rs 100 crore which the board had admitted on its official records. In any case, farmers do not want the money. The farmers want their land back," said Chopra.

The said land - bearing khasra numbers 56,58, 59, 60,69 and 70 - is located in village Khajuri Kalan, tehsil Huzur, district Bhopal. Housing board wanted to develop a residential scheme on the land.

The farmer meanwhile got hold of an important document of MPHB, which says that the land in question is not less than Rs 14 crore. This document gives credence to the claims made by the farmer, said sources.

The state government was approached in 1987-88, the collector, Bhopal and the land acquisition officer, Bhopal, initiated proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 for acquiring 25.57 acre of land in Khajuri Kalan.

Challenging the acquisition, farmer Purushottam Lal and others filed a petition objecting to the acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 terming it illegal.

#### THE CASE STUDY

In 1987-88 the Madhya Pradesh housing board initiated proceedings for acquiring 25.57 acre of land bearing the khasra no. 57, 58, 59, 60, 69 & 70 situate in Khajuri Kalan, tehsil Huzur, district Bhopal under the Land Acquisition Act 1894.

1995 - Acquisition proceedings dropped

1997 - Acquisition proceedings initiated again by MPHB ex-parte violating fundamental rights of farmers



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1997- Farmers challenged the acquisition

2015- HC ruled in favour of farmers directing the board to return the land to farmers

2016- MPHB challenges order in Supreme Court

2017 - Supreme Court issued order

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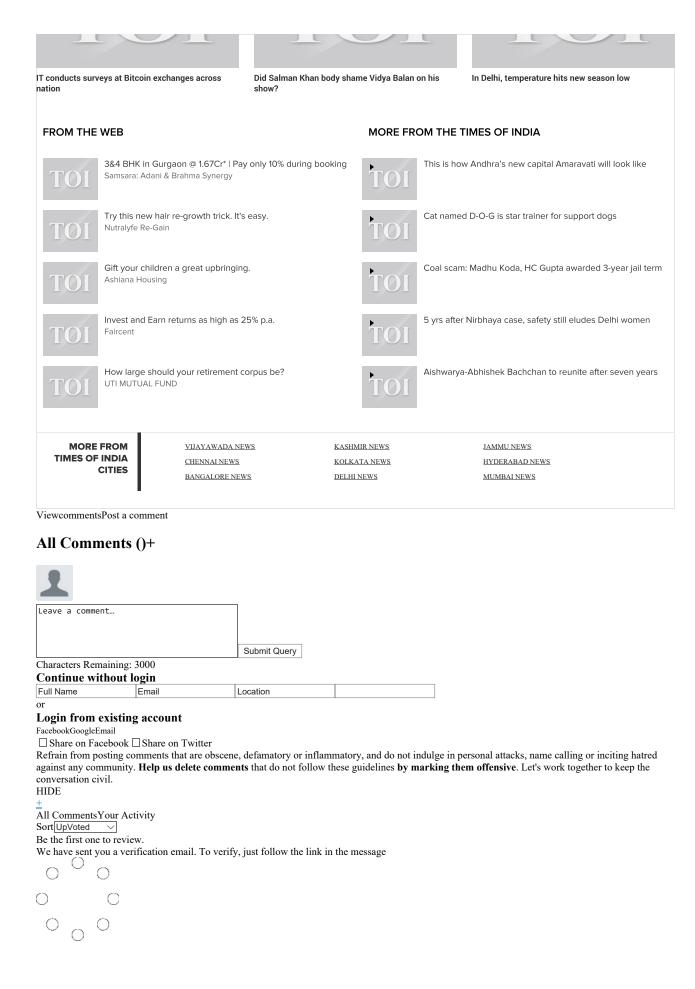
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