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Title : Study soil in reclaimed areas: Experts

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MUMBAI: The city's shores are likely to be transformed if the proposal to reclaim areas in Navi Mumbai, along the eastern waterfront and beyond Borivli for housing and infrastructure becomes a reality.

The two-member team that prepared a soil liquefaction — when soil begins to run like muddy water during an earthquake — report for Mumbai will extend its study to Navi Mumbai.

"There are fault lines in the Parvel creek that can cause ground motion," said Deepankar Choudhury, of IIT-B. He added that the preliminary work has begun.

Geologists stressed the need to prepare detailed micro seismic zone maps, based on which construction projects would get the go-ahead in reclaimed areas.

Mumbai, which falls in the moderate Seismic Zone 3, may not be very prone to earthquakes but one should



■ **IIT-B Professor Deepankar Choudhury (in blue) and VJTI Professor Sumedh Mhaske after preparing a soil liquefaction report for Mumbai will extend its study to Navi Mumbai.**
PRAFUL GANGURDE

not take it for granted, said V.K. Joshi, former director, Geological Survey of India. "An earthquake comes unannounced. Therefore, the emphasis must be on pre-disaster management rather

than post-disaster management."

The chance of liquefaction is higher in reclaimed areas because these areas are filled with boulders or waste before soil is dumped on the top. "A map will

A map will help decide how deep the foundation should go, especially for multi-storeyed buildings.

S.K. GUPTA, geologist

help decide how deep the foundation should go, especially for multi-storeyed buildings," said S.K. Gupta, geologist and consultant to the civic body.

Currently, developers construct buildings assuming a uniform ground shake everywhere.

Having worked on similar maps for Kolkata, Delhi, Dehradun and Jabalpur, Joshi said apart from revision of norms every five years, a susceptibility map would help builders understand the earthquake-resistant precautions needed in a particular area.

"It costs only 25 per cent more to make a building safe. When residents can spend money on beautification of balconies and interiors, why not pay a little more for safety," asked Joshi.