

and create a sustainable city that improves the life of citizens. "We look forward to working in collaboration with the government to build 3D models of smart cities through our application called '3DEXPERIENCECity', a virtual platform for smart city aims at federating all initiatives of sustainable and efficient availability of key resources such as energy, water, transport, urban infrastructure, education and healthcare for the benefit of the citizens," asserts Dr. Chandan Chowdhury, managing director, Dassault Systemes, India.

It is empowering to see that the decision to make cities smart will be taken by the people of the city and the local administration. This clearly indicates that there will be lot of inclusive planning. Forming an opinion, Samir Jasuja, founder and CEO, ProQuality, says, "The idea of housing for all can only become successful if there is a will to develop an inclusive plan which is possible only if the government puts in place enough safeguards to keep the builder lobby out of this policy. Therefore, one of the most crucial element in selecting firms or plans is that they should be inclusive. The initial smart city white paper was an omnibus collection of everything and non-conclusive. The paper was criticised for its approach and lack of focus on implementation. And, as far low cost housing is concerned, it has never been a draw for developers who only want to develop housing for urban rich. But, the government has decided to dole out tax breaks to incentivise such initiative. So it will be interesting to see how the government will address the land issue in the housing for all plan."

In a nutshell, all the three initiatives are at policy level, but the industry is very hopeful and looking forward for their successful execution. Thus, instead of lopsided growth, the nation will see a holistic growth, which will surely have a far-reaching impact on the overall economic development of the country.

#### Focal Points

- Criteria for selection of smart cities declared. Selected cities to be reviewed once every two years. Number of cities per state defined as per potential of population.
- Development of a city to be either retrofit of 500 acres or redevelopment of 50 acres or greenfield development of 250 acres plus a pan city initiative with a smart solution with citizen engagement.
- Mandatory norms of using 10% power source to be from renewable sources, provision of affordable housing to be 15% and 80% of buildings to be energy efficient.
- City SPV to be established at an initial capital of Rs 200 cr followed by Rs 100 cr for the rest of the four years. Chain of command at three tiers with city SPV CEO executing the blueprint. The city SPV to be a JV between Centre and State in 50:50 ratio. CEO to be appointed for three years.
- All qualifying cities need to meet criteria. Scoring criteria includes Swachh Bharat improvements, monthly newsletter, last 2 years financial statements as budgeted, internally generated revenue, improvement in trend of contribution of fees, user charges and taxes, salary payments & audit of account, online grievance redressal system etc. Cities need to attract balance funding through PPPs.
- Empanelled consultants to guide capacity building at ULBs. Qualifying cities to receive Rs 2 cr upon declaration that they have qualified. The yearly funding would be given once quarterly reports are submitted.

(Courtesy: Smart Cities Council India)

# Shaping up Bhendi Bazaar in a Smart way

*This Saifee Burhani Upliftment Project in the heart of Mumbai showcased us a smart city prototype at the launch of Smart Cities Mission'*

Steeped in history and culture, Bhendi Bazaar, a 150 years old area in the heart of the island city of Mumbai is at a point of appalling urban decay. Its infrastructure is almost century old, unsuited to the demands of modern urban life. Most of the buildings are made of wood and brick, growing progressively structurally weak and dangerously close to collapse. The narrow lanes make it almost impossible for vehicular traffic to move, while the lack of footpaths is a pedestrian's nightmare. Sanitation facilities are in a pitiable state, and inadequate fire and safety measures leave the population vulnerable to natural calamities. Bhendi Bazaar is in urgent need of a makeover, which the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT) has stepped in to provide through a

cluster redevelopment scheme. This philanthropic project undertaken by was envisioned by Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin and is now carried forward by his son Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin.

At the event of Smart Cities Mission, the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Project (SBUP), commonly known as Bhendi Bazaar Redevelopment Project, was showcased and identified as the national best practice project for inner city redevelopment by the Indian government. The Urban Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu, present at the event, applauded the much talked about Bhendi Bazaar Redevelopment Project. He stated that the project undertaken by the Dawoodi Bohra Community to redevelop Bhendi Bazaar is a perfect smart city