

Bhendi Bazar cluster redevelopment among best smart city plans: Centre

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Mumbai: The Centre has selected the Bhendi Bazar cluster redevelopment project as one of the best smart city proposals and asked BMC to share the details with civic authorities across the country.

Despite being lauded as one of the best projects to decongest the area, Bhendi Bazar cluster redevelopment project has been moving at a snail's pace for the last six years, awaiting various clearances.

The government had allowed cluster redevelopment of 260 old, dilapidated buildings to help authorities create more space in the area with the project spreading over 16.5 acres.

The spiritual head of the 10-lakh strong Dawoodi Bohra



THE REVAMP PLAN

Bhendi Bazar is spread over

16.5 acres

260 old and dilapidated buildings

3,200 residential homes, mostly owned by Bohras

1,200 commercial shops

community, Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, had launched the project about six years ago under Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT). This highly-congested locality houses 3,200 families, mainly

Bohras, and 1,200 shops.

The trust had built transit camps in the area where they rehabilitated residents of buildings that were razed to make way for towers. The project would also help the BMC

lay out wider roads and open up space for public utility services in the area.

However, the project has been delayed owing to resistance from landlords and tenants and pending clearances

from various state agencies.

Recently, the urban development ministry had asked the BMC to make 3,000 copies of the project papers and a short film on the subject. The BMC will share these details with other civic representatives during a programme in Delhi.

The PM is scheduled to launch two projects, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (Amrut) and Smart Cities, at a conference at Vigyan Bhawan on June 25-26, which will be attended by urban development ministers of states, mayors and civic chiefs of 500 cities, along with private sector representatives.

The BMC has been asked to set up an exhibition at the venue to showcase the project and display posters.