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DELHI TO GET SMARTER

A model smart city spread across 24,000 hectares to come up near Delhi; Barcelona interested in providing technical support

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Those who tested their luck in the recent housing lottery conducted by the Delhi Development Authority but failed to get a house can now dream of buying one in the greenfield smart city project planned to come up in the outskirts of the Capital. Interestingly, the cost of houses in the area will rival prices in Noida, Greater Noida and Gurgaon and are expected to be available in the range of ₹40 lakh and ₹50 lakh.

DDA had readied the smart city concept in the areas it had identified for land pooling into a giant, integrated smart city under the directions of the urban development ministry.

Around 20,000 to 24,000 hectares in areas such as Najafgarh, Kanjhawala and Narela will be developed for urbanisation and will accommodate about five million people. These new developments, to be part of zones L and N under Master Plan 2021, will be developed in a span of five to seven years, DDA vice chairman Balvinder Kumar told HT Estates.

Most of these land parcels in these zones are agricultural tracts and private parties will get to pool and develop them under the guidelines designed by DDA. The role of the government here will be to make available world-class infrastructure facilities such as transportation corridors, solid waste management, storm water drainage, energy efficiency, 24x7 water and power supply, Internet connectivity etc, Kumar says, adding, that a consultant of international repute will be appointed to help develop this city.

"Right now we have engaged the consultancy devel-

ON THE MAP

The Delhi model smart city will come up in zones N and L. Zone N includes Kanjhawala and 18 other villages. There are two economic drivers in this zone, which is spread across 9,670 hectares out of which 4,719 hectares have been reserved for private residential development. Several knowledge-based industries such as software, media, ITES, biotechnology, educational services etc are slated to come up on DSIDC land in this zone

opment centre under the ministry of science and technology and they are helping us prepare RFPs (request for proposal) etc for appointment of a project management consultant. We will be appointing an international consultant who will advise us on developing world-class infrastructure," he says.

Urban development minister Venkaiah Naidu, who recently attended the fourth Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, told HT Estates that Barcelona has

come forward to join DDA to develop part of the Capital as a smart city.

Singapore has also offered technical support for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh between Vijayawada and Guntur and Kyoto, Japan, has offered technical support for the development of Varanasi. The US, during prime minister Narendra Modi's visit to that country, had promised support for developing Visakhapatnam, Allahabad and Ajmer as smart cities, Naidu said on the sidelines of the recently concluded two-day Credai conclave.

The minister said that the key to success in developing smart cities is collaboration. Financing is crucial to developing smart cities in India through the public private partnership (PPP) route.

DDA, says Kumar, is open to working with the Spanish authorities who have evinced interest in providing technical expertise to develop the smart city near Delhi during the urban development minister's recent visit

to Barcelona.

"We are also hopeful of meeting the timelines. Once the ministry of urban development notifies the land pooling scheme, implementation will begin, hopefully from January onwards. The results of this smart city will begin to be seen in the next five to seven years in that area. The main issue here is the notification of the land pooling policy and once it is rolled out, things will start falling in place," Kumar added. As for the cost of the units in the smart city, the DDA vice chairman said it would be similar to apartment prices in NCR towns such as Noida, Greater Noida and Gurgaon.

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