

Construction of the Community Centres in New Town Kolkata

Community building and bonding is a significant part of social living. Since time immemorial, human beings have been living in communities, which has historically established the importance of community and bonding. Over time, as human beings have moved from rural to urban settlement, their community building process has also evolved too. Thus, in an urban setting, among many ways for building community is community centres. Community centres play a vital role in bringing people together by providing the platform/space where the community can come together for various social gatherings, celebrations, and other community activities.

New Town Kolkata is a new and growing township, and community building becomes extremely crucial in a new township to bring in a sense of community bonding and eradicate chances of any isolating experience. Thus, community centres are much needed in a developing township like New Town. Recognizing this need, the New Town authorities are coming up with community centres in the township to foster more interaction, harmony, and bonding among the citizens.

Locations

To start off, the city authorities have chosen two locations for the Community Centres - Action Areas IC and IIB – where the construction of the community centre buildings is underway.

Key Features of the Community Centres in New Town

As a smart city, New Town Kolkata is pledged to enhancing its amenities with smart features and making these convenient and easy to use for one and all. On these lines, the Community Centres in New Town have been envisaged with the following key features:



Wi-fi Enabled Zone – The community centres are envisioned as Wi-fi enabled zones to help the users enjoy uninterrupted internet connectivity at the venue.



Barrier-free Access – New Town understands the importance of inclusiveness and has been incorporating various means to allow for barrier-free access for all, including the differently abled, in almost every intervention it undertakes or is undertaking. To that end, the community centres are planned in a way that they include barrier-free access in the form of wheel-chair friendly ramps, thereby making the space easily accessible and conducive for all.



Stretcher-friendly Lifts – Considering that medical emergencies can occur anytime, the lifts at the community centres have been planned as stretcher-friendly to allow patient/users in medical emergency to be moved out of the venue fast and hassle-free.



CCTV Surveillance – Safety and security is one of the key areas to be addressed at any place where gathering of multiple people take place. On that note, the community centres of New Town have been equipped with CCTV cameras for uninterrupted surveillance, thus instilling a sense of security among people gathering at the community centre for any occasion.



Waste Segregation Mechanism – New Town, being committed to ensuring 30% segregation of waste at source, has been exploring strong mechanisms for achieving the same at every nook and corner of the township. In keeping with this vision, dedicated bins for dry and wet waste have been deployed at the community centres to practise and promote waste segregation at source, echoing the town's larger goal of achieving a streamlined waste management system.



Architect's vision of the Community Centre in New Town Kolkata

How are Community Centres beneficial?

As hinted at the outset, community centres in New Town are meant to provide a platform or space for community interaction and gatherings within the township.

Additionally, these community centres have been conceived as a revenue generating model for the city authorities. They add to the economic assets of the township, as they can be rented out for social purposes/occasions, thus generating revenue, which can be used by the city authorities for infrastructural developments of the township.