

Containerized Café in New Town Kolkata

New Town Kolkata, being a smart city, is committed to providing its citizens with all the amenities that make for a healthy ease-of-living quotient, while also adding smart innovations to the same to enhance the city's appeal to people in and around the city. In line with its vision, New Town has been exploring and introducing several interventions to pose itself as a smart, new age, and vibrant city that includes one and all in its fold.

One of the upcoming additions to the city's such smart innovations, is containerized café! Provision of hygienic food is one of the basic preconditions to ease-of-living. The very idea of containerized café in New Town hinges on the provision of economically affordable, attractive and hygienic food amenities in public places within the city, while taking into account the urgent need for creating employment opportunities for local informal street vendors, thereby imparting the inclusive streak which is an important component of the smart city vision. The project also envisages developing a demand-oriented, city-wide strategy that complements the lifestyle of its citizens and commuters who frequent the city, in order to achieve the standards of excellence that New Town aims for, as a smart city.

The first containerized café of New Town is being set up at the green verge adjacent to Eco Space Roundabout in Action Area II, to provide a pause point for the economically active and busy ABD area.



Approved design of the Containerized Café underway at the green verge adjacent to Eco Space Roundabout in Action Area II of New Town

The design and features of the Containerized Cafe

The café is being built out of a shipment container of size 5.894mX2.350mX2.6m. The container will be recycled into a cafe with a kitchen of 2.8mx2.24m size, and a dine-out space of 3mx2.24m size. The structure will rest on a plinth which is 12.5m long, 4.2m broad, and 0.3m high, and will be accessed by steps and a ramp. It is designed to be well-lit and adequately ventilated to provide a pleasing ambience for the visitors.

To further enhance the visitor's experience, the cafe will feature a combination of smart solar powered LED lights and electric lights, thereby ensuring ample lighting throughout the day. Additionally, the container will have solar panels on top to meet the power requirements for the solar lights in the café, thus resonating with the city's commitment to environment.

Besides to ensure safety and security of the place, the café will have 24x7 vigilance through CCTV cameras.

Given below are the various views of the containerized café, as envisioned by the architect.



Architect's vision of the café-kitchen view



Architect's vision of the café's interior view

Key Benefits of the intervention

The Containerized Café initiative is envisaged to have the following benefits:

- Create a vibrant food amenity within New Town, without having to build a permanent structure
- Offer economically affordable, attractive and hygienic food amenities at public place
- Provide employment opportunities to local informal street food vendors
- Uphold the township's commitment to environment through generation of solar energy with provision for solar panels on top of the container, and utilization of the same for a part of its lighting requirements.

Way Forward

The Containerized Café proves to be a signature initiative that combines New Town's multiple objectives as a smart city – right from food hygiene, to technology leveraging, eco-friendliness, recycling, economic opportunities, and inclusion. It gives direction to a strategic scheme that is easily replicable across New Town to endorse food hygiene as well as create economic prospects for unorganised street food vendors, which in a way would add to the city's overall appeal and vibrancy.