

Containerized Toilets in New Town Kolkata

The very concept of smart cities hinges on the idea of developing a modern urban infrastructure that aspires to improve the citizens' quality of life and incorporates a sustainable model by leveraging all its available assets. That said, a crucial aspect of modern urban infrastructure and ease-of-living is undoubtedly hygiene and sanitation, besides smart governance and technological intervention. Under sanitation, availability and maintenance of toilets is one of the key areas that demands focus.

New Town Kolkata, as a smart city that endeavours to emulate the highest of smart city standards, recognizes the importance of sanitation and toilet. So, in a bid to seriously address the issue of sanitation and public health in line with the smart city vision, New Town has introduced multiple public toilet facilities within the city enhanced with technology innovations.

Now, taking the initiative a step forward with its commitment to sustainability and recycling, New Town is all set to unveil in phases 9 containerized toilets within the township, ensuring a hygienic and smart public sanitation system, thereby improving the city's standard of living.

Containerized Toilet: Key Features and Design

Containerized toilet is a toilet facility made out of a cargo container. In New Town, containers of size 5.894mX2.350mX2. each are being recycled into containerized toilets, accommodating two water closets for men and two for women in each facility, and which acts as a temporary module that is easy to move or relocate. The structure will rest on a plinth 12.5m long, 4.2m broad and 0.3m high, and will be accessed by steps and a ramp.

The containerized toilets are designed to be inclusive, accommodating men, women, as well as those with special needs. These will have different toilet cubicles for men and women on different sides, ensuring privacy and safety, as well as ramps to provide wheelchair accessibility.

The toilets are planned in a way to ensure proper ventilation through doors, windows and louvers for odour control. Besides, they will have adequate lighting (combination of electric and solar), especially during night to ensure safety of the users. Also, there will be provision of sufficient water through water storage in an overhead tank.

Additionally, each container toilet will be enhanced with smart features such as smart LED lights, solar panels, along with solar powered lights, CCTV cameras for uninterrupted surveillance ensuring users' safety, LED advertisement panels, and bio-digesters/septic bank.



The approved design of the containerized toilet, coming up in New Town Kolkata

Locations of Containerized Toilets

The 9 locations in New Town where the containerized toilets are underway are spread across the ABD area of the township, which includes Action Areas I and II. The locations for Containerized Toilets have been identified considering major commercial and public node, busy bus shelters, and the spots belonging to rapidly developing areas.

The exact locations for containerized toilets are listed below:

1. Near New Town Water treatment plant and Tank no.1 (Street no. 51)

2. New Town Business Club Parking lot

3. Near Central Mall Parking (Street Number 104/95)

4. Near DLF Subway Gate No.1

5. Near Tank 3 (Street No. 175, Link Canal)

6. Near Lohar pool CG Block Community Market (Street No. 247)

7. Near Smritiban Park (Street No. 101)

8. Near Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (Street No. 302,299)

9. Near Candor Tech Space (Street No. 368)

Benefits of the intervention

The Containerized Toilet initiative in New Town is envisaged to have the following benefits:

- Instill good hygiene practice through toilets
- Create user-friendly toilet facilities without having to build a permanent structure
- Provide toilet facilities that are inclusive by being gender sensitive as well user-friendly for the specially abled
- Uphold the township's commitment to environment through generation of solar energy by installing solar panels on top of the container, and utilization of the same for a part of its lighting requirements

Way Forward

The Containerized Toilet initiative of New Town Kolkata emphasizes the importance of hygiene and sanitation, while also achieving several other smart city objectives such as technology leveraging, eco-friendliness, recycling, inclusion, etc. Moreover, it helps to develop a demand oriented city-wide public toilet strategy, which aims to enhance the city's sanitation facilities leveraging smart technology, thereby improving the standard of living for the citizens as well as the commuters who frequent the city.

Overall, this smart initiative brings multiple commitments together, underlining the township's broader smart vision which unfurls New Town's immense potential of becoming an exemplary smart city with its constant innovations to enhance its ease-of-living quotient.