



Edition 5, February 2021



# MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS AND INITIATIVES



## NEW TOWN KOLKATA



## Inauguration of an Extension Counter of Fair Price Shop

*An extension counter of a Fair Price Shop or Ration Shop has been opened near Tank No. 3 in New Town's Action Area I. The facility was inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 by Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO, NKDA, and NKGSCCL, Shri Debashis Sen, in the presence of the officials of HIDCO, NKDA, and NKDA. Also present at the event were senior officers of the Department of Food & Supplies, Government of West Bengal.*

*The new Fair Price Shop will distribute subsidized rations to Ration Card holders having income below fifteen thousand rupees. Since New Town has a large floating population and is also surrounded by several villages and panchayat areas, the Fair Price Shop is a much-needed facility in the township. The FPS is open every Tuesday from 10AM to 2PM*



*Hon'ble Chairman, inaugurating the FPS counter*



*Some snippets from the FPS inauguration ceremony*

## Opening of Dog Pound in New Town

*NKDA has opened an 11-roomed dog pound within New Town's cattle pound in Action Area ID. The facility was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 in the presence of NKDA and HIDCO Chairman, Shri Debashis Sen, CEO NKDA, Shri Animesh Bhattacharya, and other officials of the city authorities.*

*The dog pound will have veterinary surgeons for sterilizing stray dogs. The cattle pound has been functioning for the past several months, and now the place will also have a dog pound.*



*Hon'ble Chairman and CEO NKDA inaugurating the dog pound*

## Inauguration of New Town Fire Station

*New Town's first fire and emergency services station has been built in the township's Action Area 1, on a two-acre plot behind Axis Mall. It is a five-pump station, which has been started with two fire-tenders. The facility was inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by Hon'ble Minister Shri Sujit Bose, in the presence of Chairman, HIDCO, NKDA, and NKGSCCL, Shri Debashis Sen, and other officials of the New Town Kolkata city authorities.*

*Also present at the event were Hon'ble Minister, Shri Purnendu Basu and Mayor of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, Smt Krishna Chakraborty as honorable guests. Previously, New Town was dependent on Bidhannagar for emergency services. But with its own fire and emergency services station being established, New Town's external dependencies for addressing emergencies has been diminished.*



*Hon'ble Minister Shri Sujit Bose, Hon'ble Minister Shri Purnendu Basu, and BMC Mayor, Smt Krishna Chakraborty cutting the inaugural ribbon*

# Few more snippets from the New Town fire station inauguration



## Distribution of Allotment Letters for Bengal Silicon Valley

*HIDCO had organized an event on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the Bengali Silicon Valley site to formally handover the allotment letters for plots to set up technology industry at Bengal Silicon Valley. Allotment letters were given to representatives of 22 organizations, including Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), by Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO, Shri Debashis Sen, in the presence of Managing Director, WBIDC, Smt Smita Pande and other officials of HIDCO.*

*Also, it was informed at the event that all the remaining plots for Bengal Silicon Valley shall be exhibited online and all applications would be done online.*



*Hon'ble Chairman addressing all present at the event*



*Hon'ble Chairman along with the officials of New Town Kolkata city authorities*



*Allotment letters being handed over to the representatives of the organizations who were allotted Bengal Silicon Valley plots*



# Media coverage of the Bengal Silicon Valley plot allotment letter distribution event

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## Silicon Valley: Tech firms allotted plots

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

**KOLKATA:** Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) handed over allotment letters for plots for phases 2 and 3 to set up tech industries at Bengal Silicon Valley, which is coming up at New Town on Monday afternoon.

Debashis Sen, Chairman of HIDCO, handed over the allotment letters to the representa-



tatives of 18 firms at a function. Senior officials of HIDCO and NKDA attended the function. The agencies that got allotment letters included Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), SAMEER, WBEIDC, Sky-map Global India, Vikrant Solar, Unified Infotech, SGN Software, Shree Brindawan Infradev among others. The proposed Bengal Silicon Valley is being built on 200 acres. Somnath Dutta, AVP, Reliance Industries said his organisation had already started work to set up a world class data centre. Airtel CEO in Kolkata, who was present at the function, said the firm had a plan to set up a data centre through Nextra Data.

The Bengal Silicon Valley, a dream project of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has received tremendous attention from different organisations across the country. Through those who have been allotted plots Bengal Silicon Valley will bring in cutting edge technology in the state.

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## IT hub plots adjacent to Eco Park in New Town can now be booked online

The area that has been named Bengal Silicon Valley covers over 200 acres and has 169 acre of allotable space



New Town's Silicon Valley Hub near Eco Park. Telegraph picture

Snehal Sengupta | New Town | Published 09.02.21, 04:29 AM

Plots located at the 200-acre IT hub in New Town adjacent to Eco Park can now be booked online, an official of the Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (Hidco) said.

The online plot and land parcel booking system will start functioning within the next 30 days and the system has been configured in a way to eliminate the need of physical visits to Hidco offices, the official said.

The area that has been named Bengal Silicon Valley covers over 200 acres and has 169 acre of allotable space. According to the official, in order to book a plot one has to log in to the Hidco website - [www.wbhidcoltd.com](http://www.wbhidcoltd.com).

The details of each of the plot are listed and they range from 0.248 acres to 21.752 acre. All the plots can be taken on a 99-year lease and the price per acre has been set at Rs 4.70 crore per acre by Hidco, the official added.

Debashis Sen, chairman and managing director of Hidco, said the system will not only help people to book the plots easily and save time but will also give effective protection in the ongoing Covid-19 scenario.

According to Sen, this will be a pilot run of sorts and they wanted to emulate the same procedure of booking and allotment of plots across New Town.

On Sunday, 20 organisations, including the Indian Statistical Institute, Webel, Panorama, Vikram Solar and Unified Info Tech, were handed allotment letters in Bengal Silicon Valley.

Smita Pandey, managing director of Webel, said the company would build an IT hub as well a centre for excellence for start-ups in the region.

"This is an area which has seen remarkable development and we are happy to have a place where we can build an IT hub where companies can rent out space at very affordable rates," said Pandey.

Hidco had earlier organised a webinar that discussed the possibility of some big firms in China moving elsewhere. "India is already reaching out to over 300 industries in China, offering them to relocate to India and we want to attract them to move to New Town," another Hidco official said.

Sudip Chatterjee, company secretary of Vikram Solar which builds solar panels and solar powered applications, said that they had taken land at the Bengal Silicon Valley due to its location as well as the fact that it was a smooth process.

"We want to set up a research as well as manufacturing centre here and are hoping to generate employment for at least 200 men and women," said Chatterjee.

## সিলিকন ভ্যালিতে প্লট বণ্টন



নিউটাউনে সিলিকন ভ্যালির প্লট বণ্টন অনুষ্ঠানে হিডকোর চেয়ারম্যান দেবাশিস সেন। সোমবার।

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, বিধাননগর : ফেজ টু এবং থ্রি-এর প্লট অ্যালটমেন্ট প্রক্রিয়া শুরু হল নিউটাউনের সিলিকন ভ্যালিতে। মোট ২২টি প্লট বণ্টন করা হবে এই পর্যায়ে। সোমবার বণ্টন শুরুর দিন ১৯টি প্লট বণ্টন করা হল।

এদিন হিডকোর চেয়ারম্যান দেবাশিস সেন, ডব্লিউবিআইডিসির ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর স্মিতা পাণ্ডে-সহ সরকারের অন্যান্য আধিকারিক এবং বিভিন্ন সংস্থার কর্তাব্যক্তির উপস্থিতি ছিলেন। হিডকো সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, এদিন বণ্টন প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশ নিতে এসেছিলেন বহু সংস্থার উচ্চপদস্থ আধিকারিকরা। উপস্থিত ছিলেন, স্কাইম্যাপ গ্লোবাল, কনাসেন্ট, নেভা টেকনোলজি, ওয়েবেল, এক্সট্রা ডেটা,

প্যানোরামা ইলেকট্রনিক্স, বিক্রম সোলার, ইনফ্লিক্স টেকনোলজিস, এসজিএন সফটওয়্যার ইত্যাদি।

গবেষণা এবং শিল্পোদ্যোগকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যেতে আগামী দিনে অগ্রণী ভূমিকা গ্রহণ করতে চলেছে সিলিকন ভ্যালি। ইন্ডিয়ান স্ট্যাটিস্টিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট এদিন অংশ নিয়েছিল অনুষ্ঠানে। গবেষণা সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্দিষ্ট করার বিষয়ে আলোকপাত করা হয় আইএসআই-এর পক্ষ থেকে। এর পাশাপাশি এভিপি রিলায়েন্সের পক্ষ থেকে এদিনের অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত থাকা এক উচ্চপদস্থ প্রতিনিধি জানিয়েছেন, বিশ্বমানের ডেটা সেন্টার করার কাজ শুরু করেছেন।

## **Felicitation of Covid Warriors with Medal of Honour and e-bikes**

*HIDCO had joined hands with British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata and GoZero Mobility UK to felicitate the Covid Frontline Warriors with Medal of Honour, certificate, and e-bikes from GoZero Mobility, which is an eco-friendly mode of transportation. A felicitation ceremony was organized on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at Eco Park's Eiffel Tower area, where the e-bikes were handed over to the Covid Warriors by British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Nick Low, in the presence of Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO, Mr Debashis Sen, GoZero Mobility CEO, Mr Ankit Kumar, and other important officials of HIDCO and NKDA.*

*In their respective speeches, both the British Deputy High Commissioner, as well as Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO emphasized the importance of sustainability, and people's responsibility towards saving the planet by resorting to means like non-motorized transport. In keeping with the flavour of the event as well as New Town's commitment to greenery and environment, the important guests were gifted potted plants by Hon'ble Chairman.*



*Allotment letters being handed over to the representatives of the organizations who were allotted to Bengal Silicon Valley plots*

# Few more snippets from the Felicitation of Covid Warriors event



## Distribution of Swastha Sathi Card

*Under the Duare Sarkar programme of the Government of West Bengal, NKDA had organized Swastha Sathi card distribution camps at Rabindra Tirtha on 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. At these camps, Swastha Sathi cards were distributed to over 450 applicants.*



*Snippets from the Swastha Sathi card distribution camps at Rabindra Tirtha in February 2021*

## Counters for sale of chrysanthemums and tuberose grown in New Town

*In a unique urban floriculture endeavour, New Town city authorities are growing chrysanthemums and tube-rose on the road median of about 2-acre area near Biswa Bangla Gate at Narkelbagal crossing. The chrysanthemums were grown using grow light. These flowers had been sold through 8 counters at prominent locations across the city. The counters were opened on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021.*



*Hon'ble Chairman at the site where chrysanthemums were grown*



*One of the flower counters*

## Opening of Zero Shop stall at Swamsidhha Mela

*In an endeavour to expand its sustainability drive and further popularize buying of recycled clothes by choice, NKDA had set up a Zero Shop stall at Swayamsidhha Mela at Central Park, Salt Lake.*

*The stall was inaugurated on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by Hon'ble Minister, Mr Firhad Hakim, in the presence of HIDCO and NKDA Chairman, Mr Debashis Sen and NKDA CEO, Mr Animesh Bhattacharya. The Zero Shop counter at Swayamsidhha Mela witnessed a sale of 399 items over 10 days.*



*Hon'ble Minister, Mr Firhad Hakim inaugurating the Zero Shop stall at Swayamsidhha Mela*



*Some snippets of the Zero Shop stall at Swayamsidhha Mela*

## Chokher Alo camp at New Town

*As part of the Government of West Bengal's 'Chokher Alo' campaign, a free eye-check-up camp was held at New Town's Rabindra Tirtha on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Present at the camp were Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO and NKDA, Shri Debashis Sen, NKDA CEO, Shri Animesh Bhattacharya, Dr Archita Saha, and Dr Arnab Roy. Free spectacles were distributed to 245 people at the camp, 342 beneficiaries received free eye check-up, and 29 were recommended for cataract surgery.*



*Some snippets from the Chokher Alo camp at Rabindra Tirtha*

## Foundation laying ceremony for Adibasi Museum

*New Town is coming up with an Adibasi Museum or tribal museum at Eco Urban Village. Planned to be built in Shantiniketan's Kalobari style, the museum's look will be designed by eminent artist, Shri Rupchand Kundu. The foundation laying ceremony to mark the beginning of this project, was held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO and NKDA, Shri Debashis Sen, artist Shri Rupchand Kundu, and other senior officials of HIDCO and NKDA.*



*Artist Shri Rupchand Kundu explaining the design to Hon'ble Chairman*



*Hon'ble Chairman in discussion with the officials and Shri Rupchand Kundu*

## Eco Park: A birding destination and its flora

*New Town city authorities collaborated with an NGO, Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS) to organize a workshop, 'Eco Park: A birding destination and its flora', on the flora and birds of Eco Park on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at Eco Park's 'Pakhi Bitan'. Present at the event were Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO and NKDA, Shri Debashis Sen, the senior officials of HIDCO and NKDA, members of the NEWS, and students from the Environmental Science Department of University of Calcutta.*

*The event started with the unveiling of a promotional tool reinforcing non-caging of wild birds by Hon'ble Chairman, followed by releasing of caged birds and butterflies in their natural habitat. The workshop was an insightful one, which explored easy steps to identify birds as well as helped the participants get acquainted with the local birds at Eco Park.*



*Hon'ble Chairman unveiling the promotional tool reinforcing non-caging of wild birds*

# *Few more snippets from the workshop “Eco Park: A birding destination and its flora”*



## Inauguration of 9 containerized toilets

*New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has set up 9 containerized pay-and-use toilets across the city. These toilets have been made out of recycled cargo containers, each 8ft high, 8ft wide, and 20ft long, approximately. The containerized toilets were inaugurated on 22nd February 2021 by Hon'ble Chairman, NKDA, HIDCO, and NKGSCCL, Shri Debashis Sen, in presence of the other officials of NKDA, HIDCO, and NKGSCCL.*

### *Smart features of the containerized toilets*

- Smart signage to indicate the men's and women's sections*
- Solar panels on top of each toilet, reinforcing the city's commitment to generating and using sustainable energy*
- Sensor-based lighting inside the toilet; the sensors allow the lights in the toilet to get dimmed when the toilet is not in use, thereby saving energy*



*Hon'ble Chairman, along with the officials, inaugurating a containerized toilet*

## 9 locations of the containerized toilets

1. At New Town Smart Plaza
2. Inside NKDA Bus Terminus near Pride Hotel
3. Inside PHE Tank No.1
4. Opposite Sonar Kella Park
5. Opposite Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital
6. Back side of Central Mall
7. In front of Candor Tech Space
8. Near NBCC Complex
9. Near Restello Building

# New Town residents get pay-and-use toilets made of recycled cargo containers

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**Kolkata:** The New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has set up pay-and-use toilets made out of recycled cargo containers at nine places across New Town. The containerized toilets are approximately 8ft high, 8ft wide and 20ft long and have been aesthetically designed keeping in mind the green surroundings.

NKDA chairman Debasish Sen inaugurated the toilets on Monday along with other officials present on the occasion. The toilets with smart signage to indicate men's and women's sections have solar panels on top to generate renewable energy for the sensor-based lights inside. The sensors allow the lights to get dimmed when the toilet is not in use and to light up whenever anyone enters, thereby saving energy, officials said.

The toilets have been set

## AN ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY SOLUTION

### What's a containerized toilet?

> Toilets made out of recycled cargo containers. NKDA has set up such pay-and-use toilets at nine places across New Town

### Where are they located?

> New Town Smart Plaza, inside NKDA bus terminus near Pride Hotel, inside PHE tank No. 1, opposite Sonar Kella park, opposite Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, behind Central Mall, in front of Candor Tech Space, near NBCC Complex and near Restello Building



A newly built cargo container toilet in New Town

up at New Town smart plaza, inside NKDA bus terminus near Pride Hotel, near PHE tank No. 1, Sonar Kella park,

Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, behind Central Mall, in front of Candor Tech Space, near NBCC Complex and ne-

ar Restello Building and the facilities (charging Rs 2 and Rs 5) will remain open from 9am to 10pm everyday.

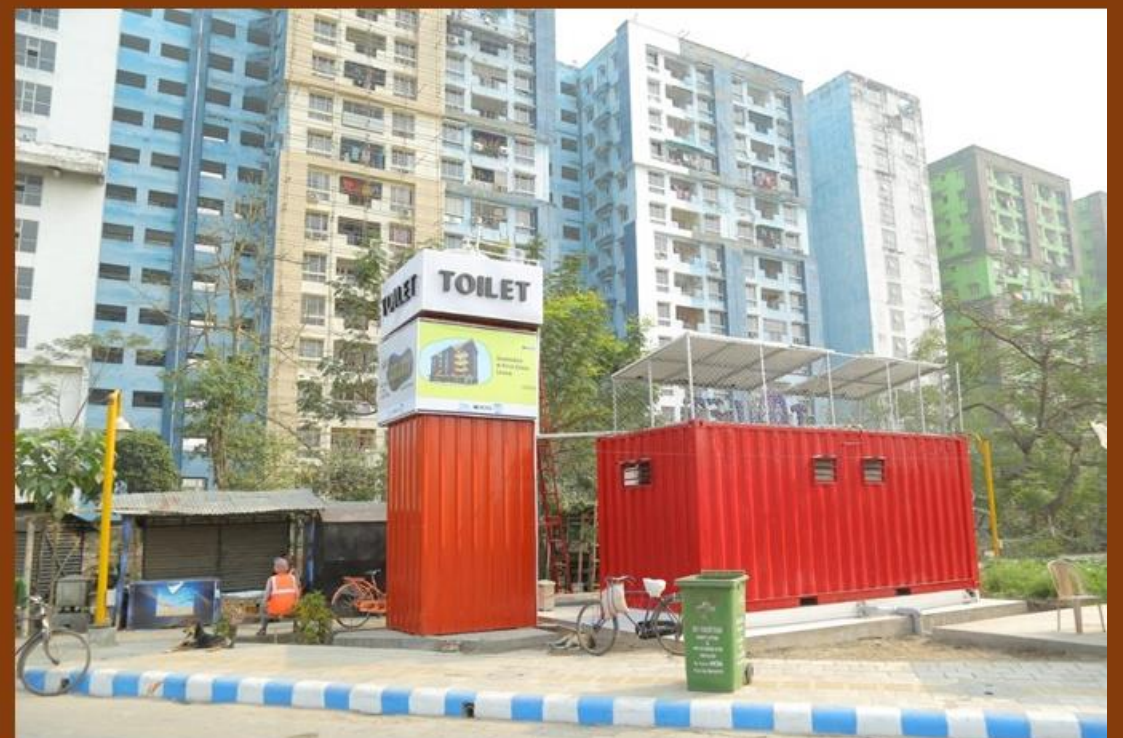
The New Town residents said that such pay-and-use toilets were much needed in the area. "These would be very useful keeping in mind that there were not many such facilities in the township. Moreover, the solar panels would help in developing renewable energy which would be environment friendly," said Kauslav De, a local resident.

NKDA has also been working to recycle and re-use waste and discarded items as part of its waste disposal system. The authorities have already set up a bio gas generation plant which is expected to start working from mid March onwards.

Also, the authorities have set up the zero-waste shop where old discarded cloths and other wastes could be handed out for recycling into useful products.

Earlier Hidco also recycled abandoned pier cap pillars into architectural installations with the help of artist Rupchand Kundu.

*Snippets of some of the containerized toilets in New Town*



## Inauguration of New Town Book Fair

*The 7th New Town Book Fair was organized at New Town Mela Ground from 26th February to 7th March 2021. An elaborate inauguration ceremony was held on the opening day, with Hon'ble Chairman, HIDCO and NKDA, Shri Debashis Sen gracing the programme, along with CEO NKDA, Shri Animesh Bhattacharya, and eminent guests like poets Shri Joy Goswami and Shri Subodh Sarkar, New Town Boi Mela Samity president, Smt Urmila Sen and many more.*



*Few captures from the inauguration of New Town Book Fair*

# Few more snippets from the New Town Book Fair



## Opening of Zero Shop stall at New Town Book Fair

*Promoting its sustainability drive, NKDA had set up a Zero Shop stall at New Town Book Fair. The stall was opened on the inaugural day (26<sup>th</sup> February 2021) of the fair, by Hon'ble Chairman, NKDA and HIDCO, Shri Debashis Sen and CEO NKDA, Shri Animesh Bhattacharya.*



*Hon'ble Chairman and CEO NKDA at the Zero Shop stall at New Town Book Fair*



*Zero Shop – New Town’s commitment to sustainability and recycling;  
Hon’ble Minister, Mr Firhad Hakim inaugurating a Zero Shop stall at Swayamsiddha Mela*



*Inauguration of the first fire station of New Town*

