

Inauguration of the Smart Parking Solution and Integrated Command and Control Centre in New Town Kolkata

New Town Kolkata aims at providing highest standards of services to its citizens. New Town Kolkata aims at enhancing mobility and connectivity, improving safety and security, and improving the quality of life of its citizens. Being a Smart City, New Town Kolkata emphasizes on development of smart IOT enabled facilities for augmentation of city infrastructure. A State-of-the-Art Integrated Command Control Centre oversees the entire infrastructure development and their operational efficiency in New Town Kolkata. Various smart solutions form an integral part of the city infrastructure.

The **Integrated Command and Control Centre** and a **FASTag based Smart Parking Solution** has been inaugurated recently. They were inaugurated by Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission on 5 December 2023 in the august presence of Shri. Debashis Sen, Hon'ble Chairman of New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA), Shri. Prasanta Kumar Barai, Chief Executive Officer, NKDA, Smt. Meghna Pal, Chief Executive Officer, New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Ltd. (NKGSCCL) and other senior officials of NKDA and NKGSCCL.

In the **smart parking project**, the city authority of New Town has leveraged, FASTag technology which is widely used for electronic toll collection on highways across India. In New Town, the FASTag technology has been integrated at a parking lot opposite New Town Business Club (NTBC). Developed as a pilot initiative, the authority aims to replicate the solution in other parking lots in New Town. This shall help to reduce the waiting time and improve the overall efficiency of parking lots. RFID tags installed on vehicles and RFID readers at entry and exit points, automatically detect and record entry and exit time. This minimizes the need for manual ticketing thereby reducing human errors. Moreover, integration of digital payment methods, simplifies the payment process, ensuring smooth movement of vehicles at the parking lot.



While understanding the project nuances, it was pointed to Shri. Kumar that there are still 25% vehicles which are not FASTag enabled, and hence human resource must be deployed at the parking lot to cater to these vehicles. Shri. Kumar suggested that differential parking charges may be applied for FASTag and non- FASTag vehicles. The Mission Director additionally advocated for making the New Town Business Club parking lot (with its exemption list), a model that may be replicated in other smart cities of India.



In addition to Smart Parking Solution, Shri. Kumar also inaugurated the **Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)** project. The ICCC is a flagship project developed under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM).

The facility will serve as a *nerve centre* for operation management and day-to day exception handling in the city. ICCC aims to provide a common platform for seamless data and information exchange between various departments involved in delivery of citizen services in the city. Additionally, the facility envisions to provide real time data to policy and decision makers, enabling faster and informed decision making by the authority. ICCC with its real-time monitoring through CCTV etc. enables a safety and security layer to the city administration, as well. Shri. Kunal Kumar suggested that all data set available at the ICCC should be analyzed to understand the impact of each project on citizens after the implementation of ICCC.

