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e-toilet opened near temple

- Special Correspondent

After a person uses the facility, it gets cleaned up automatically

With Madurai figuring in the country's 'smart city' programme, the civic body has dedicated to the public an e-toilet facility installed at a public park near Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple on Wednesday.

With separate enclosures for men and women, the e-toilet's objective was to ensure that public spaces remained clean and free of pollution, especially since it is situated near a world-famous shrine.

After dedicating the facility, Mayor in charge K. Thiraviam and Commissioner Sandeep Nanduri briefed reporters about the functioning of the e-toilet.

On inserting a two-rupee coin, the door opens to let the user in. While it is in use, a red light glows.

To indicate that the e-toilet is available for use, a green light glows. Whenever the water level dips, an amber light glows. Attached with GPRS facility, the e-toilet's use can be monitored online and operated accordingly.

A 200-litre capacity overhead tank has been installed atop the e-toilet. After a person uses the facility, it gets cleaned up automatically. After 10 members use the toilet, the entire area gets washed up automatically, thus keeping it clean and tidy.

Mr. Nanduri said the city will get more such e-toilets, at least 10, in a phased manner.

In the event of power failure, it would continue to function for six hours through a power backup arrangement, he said and added that the success of such a facility relied on users handling it with care and in a proper manner.

Keeping in mind the need to prevent open defecation and to avoid people from urinating in public places, the Madurai Corporation had been introducing a number of measures. "We have identified locations where floating population in the city is more and plan to install e-toilets there," City Engineer Mathuram said.

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