

The Times of India 09.01.2014

Nashik Municipal Corporation appoints firm to run signals on solar power

NASHIK: The Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has appointed a private contractor for installing solar power systems on traffic signals across the city.

The work is expected to be complete in the next three months.

The cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 19 lakh. The contract also includes installation of countdown timers.

Signals across the city are maintained and repaired by the civic administration, which spends an average of Rs 27 lakh a year for the purpose.

There are 28 signals across the city, of which three are already operational on solar energy. At present, only six signals are fitted with countdown timers.

"All traffic signals across the city will go solar shortly. We recently concluded a tender process and have finalised a contractor for installation of solar power systems on signals. Of the total 28 signals, 25 now run on electricity. Converting signals to be run on solar energy will help smoothen signal functions, since there will be no power failure," an NMC official

said. According to the official, these solar-powered signals will continue to run during the monsoons, with a substitute arrangement of supply from the Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL).

"All signals are also to be fitted with countdown timers. Now, only six out of the 28 signals have an application of countdown timers. This will allow vehicle operators to start their vehicles a few seconds before the signals go green, help control pollution and save fuel," the official said.