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MRVC uses CCTV to track project progress



A state-of-the-art wireless surveillance camera has been installed in the Virar carshed to aid the routine inspection of the work's progress

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Aug. 1: The Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) the nodal agency that is implementing the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) is making extensive use of CCTV technology to ensure faster implementation of its projects. Last week, at the Virar carshed site, it installed a state-of-the-art wireless surveillance camera to aid the routine inspection of the work's progress.

More importantly, the movement of the pan tilt zoom (PTZ) camera can be controlled remotely from the site and from the MRVC office at Churchgate as well. "The commuting time from Churchgate to Virar by a suburban train is over one-and-a-half hours and in the past, going to the site and the return journey would consume the better part of my day which was such a waste of time," said MRVC MD Dr P.C. Sehgal.

The live video from the camera is wirelessly transmitted to the microwave station at Virar and from there, the data travels through Railnet, the optic fibre cable network, to the MRVC office at Churchgate railway station

He added, "As a managing director, I would rather be doing something worthwhile." He mooted the idea to instal surveillance cameras at the site for remote inspection. MRVC then zeroed in on a camera kit with 36x resolution manufactured by JVC that costs Rs 5 lakhs. The camera encased in a glass dome is perched atop a building and zooms several kilometers

spanning the entire work site. The live video from the camera is wirelessly transmitted to the microwave station at Virar and from there, the data travels through Railnet, the optic fibre cable network, to the MRVC office at Churchgate railway station. "I can see the number of workers at the site and zoom in to see if they are just lazing around or doing their work. Gradually, it will also make a difference when the workers, supervisors and site engineers are aware that they are being watched," said Dr Sehgal.

The Virar carshed is being remodelled to accommodate 30 trains of 15 car rakes and will also house a hi-tech train cleaning facility that will enable the railways to wash the *paan* (betel leaf) and tobacco-stained trains once in 10 days. As only 30 per cent of the work is remaining, the portable surveillance camera will be shifted to other project sites under the MUTP, once the work at Virar is complete.

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