

24x7 pre-paid drinking water supply a top priority under AMRUT: MAHUD Director

IT News
Imphal, May 4,

Director, MAHUD & Chief Town Planner, TPD, N. Gitkumar Singh said that it is a top priority to provide 24x7 pre-paid drinking water to households in the Imphal Municipal areas under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT). This was stated at the ongoing series of press conference organised by Directorate of Information & Public Relations held at DIPR Complex, Moirangkhom on Thursday.

He said that the main objective of introduction of pre-paid water metres is to check the water theft, leakage and control water wastage. For the project, the Centre has allocated Rs. 180.32 crore out of which Rs. 175.81 crore is for water supply and Rs 4.41 crore for development of parks and green spaces with children/elderly citizen friendly facilities. The funding pattern will be in the ratio of 90:10, he added.

Stating that AMRUT will be implemented in 3 (three) phases which has been approved by the Centre, he informed that all the instalments has been released. PHED has already started the process of laying water pipes and supervision will be done by the Urban Local Bodies. Highlighting the major initiatives taken up by the Department to facilitate State Government's Programme 'Khangang Chatse - Go To Village' mission, he said 146 public toilets in the 27 towns of Manipur has been mapped under Google Toilet Locator.



One can locate the nearest public toilet by typing Swachh Toilet Manipur. With the help of the 27 Urban local Bodies to keep the toilet neat and clean, feedback devices will be installed to know the condition of the public toilets and the feedback will directly come to the command centre. He said IIT, Kharagpur, will be engaged for the preparation of GIS-base Master Plan for Imphal City to choke out plans for proper maintenance of the towns such as to sort out the traffic congestions. The expenditure will be borne by Central Government with a grant of 75 lakhs and the remaining 15 lakhs will be borne by State Government. He said that a comprehensive survey of the Urban Street Vendors of Imphal will be conducted in association with Economics Department, Manipur University. The Department is also finding out the Urban Homeless in the 27 Municipal towns of Manipur in collaboration with Anthropology Department, Manipur University. He said the Ministry of DoNER has approved the proposal for management of

Municipal Solid Waste for 7 (Seven) towns namely Andro, Sikkong, Sekmai, Heirok, Wangjing Laming, Thoubal and Lilong (Thoubal) for a total cost of Rs 13.52 crore. He said that a major objective of the MAHUD Department is to dispose the waste causing pollution, scientifically, without affecting the environment. Treatment of waste materials has been taken up successfully for the Imphal town at Lamdeng Solid Waste Plant. Stating that Imphal was ranked 10th among the 13 cities which got selected in the 23 Fast Track Cities competition under Smart City Mission (SCM), Project management consultant (PMC) for implementation of Smart City Projects will be selected under Smart City Limited (ISCL), incorporated in the year 2016. To ease traffic congestion at the Imphal area, parking lot will be constructed at the basement of the 3 Ima Keithels along with foot overbridge and also to find out alternative routes. Citizen Facilitation Centre, a one stop centre, will be open under Smart City Limited for easy procurement of Death

Certificate, registration of vehicles, getting license etc., for those living in far flung areas. For setting up the Centre e-tender has been open at all India level. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), 27 towns of Manipur have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). It may be mentioned that Government of India has declared 21 towns including Imphal as ODF. The State is planning to become ODF in all the Urbans by 2018, he added.

Ng. Uttam Singh, Joint Director, MAHUD, said that Imphal Evenings will feature additional programme in Collaboration with Manipur Mountaineering & Trekking Association and Art & Cultural Department with inclusion of adventure sports and cultural items for entertainment. Y. Narmada Devi, Associate Town Planner, TPD; L. Jayarami, District Co-ordinator, MAHUD and Ch. Ningtamba Meitei, Asst. Director, MAHUD also attended the Press Interaction which was moderated by T. Sangeeta, Asst. Publicity Officer, Information & Public Relations.

Tripura's Manipuri language activists stage protest demonstration

Agency
Agartala, May 4,

Demanding Manipuri subject teachers in government schools in Tripura, a group of Manipuri language activists on Thursday took to the streets and demanded state government's intervention. The Tripura Manipuri Chhatra-Juba Samanyay Committee, which has been working to promote Manipuri language since years, held a demonstration in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue near Agartala Circuit House yesterday afternoon. Tripura Manipuri Chhatra Juba Samanyay Committee president Dharendra Singh told reporters that they had sought an appointment with

the education minister about three weeks ago but were denied a meeting. "On April 19, we applied for an appointment to submit a deputation. We tried to communicate later too but no confirmation was given. Today (Thursday) we held a street-corner meeting for some time and went back," he added. Singh said the erstwhile Left Front government had also "deprived" Manipuris. "They have appointed assistant teachers from the Manipuri community but these teachers might not have studied the language as a subject. We demand Manipuri subject teachers like other minority languages," he said. Singh said Manipuri language

was offered as a subject in Tripura's schools since 1998 but no subject expert had been recruited so far as a teacher. "We had hoped the new government would listen to us. We are a small community. We are pained to see their attitude. A pro-people government should promote and protect the interests of weaker communities," Singh said. TNT tried to get opinion from education minister Ratan Lal Nath on the issue but he could not be reached. Manipuri is one of the indigenous languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, Tripura Manipuri Chhatra-Juba Samanyay Committee claimed.

Chief Minister condemns assault on Manipuris

IT News
Imphal, May 3,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has strongly condemned the recent violent attack, racial abuse and ill treatment on the 12 youths from Manipur while travelling on train from New Delhi to Guwahati. In this regard, the Chief Minister apprised the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and requested to take appropriate action regarding the unfortunate incident and also to issue necessary directives to all States, Railways Authority and Security forces for providing adequate security to prevent any assault or misbehaviour with North-East people. The Chief Minister also

apprised the Union Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar to take up appropriate action in this regard. The Chief Minister further instructed State Chief Secretary and DGP to contact their counterparts so as to ensure the safety and security of the North-East people and Manipuris in particular outside the State. The Chief Minister appealed to the general public to inform the government of any such incident in time so that the State Government could initiate timely action. The Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is presently in New Delhi for an official visit.

Interaction on career guidance

IT News
Imphal, May 4,

As part of the outreach to the local youth a Career Guidance and Interaction Program was conducted at Standard Robert High School, Canchipur by 6 Assam Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) on May 2. The aim of the event was to increase awareness about various competitive exams after completion of school and motivate and how to join Armed Forces. A total of 300 Students attended the event. The student and school authority expressed their gratitude to the Assam Rifles personnel for organizing the event for guidance of the youth.

CBI asked to probe Nagaland High Court construction scam

Agency
Gauhati, May 4,

The Gauhati High Court has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe an alleged scam in the construction of the Nagaland High Court building in Kohima since 2007 and submit a report within 3 months. The basic structure of the site is yet to be completed, but the Nagaland government allegedly withdrew Rs. 44.24 crore against electrification and water supply for the project site besides another Rs. 22.42 crore for construction of bungalows for

the judges, area for which has not been earmarked. "Beyond belief" The Nagaland government also paid Rs. 1.3 crore as consultancy fee for the construction, which the Gauhati HC termed as "beyond belief" while hearing a set of petitions by the Nagaland Tribes Council and some Nagaland-based social and RTI activists. Hearing the petition on Wednesday, the Gauhati HC asked the CBI to conduct a preliminary investigation into charges of misappropriation of public money in the construction of the Nagaland HC complex.

According to the petitioners, only 35% of the work has been completed in 11 years since construction began with an estimated budget of ₹ 43 crore. Work on the HC complexes in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura had started around the same time. Between March 2009 and March 2017, Nagaland's Justice and Law Department made 18 withdrawals from the State exchequer while the project cost was increased to ₹ 52.63 crore. The department also took a loan of ₹ 12.46 crore from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO).

LASI Main Wave I Phase II field survey underway

IT News
Imphal, May 4,

The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) - a nation-wide survey to understand the health, economic, social, and overall wellbeing of people aged 45 years and above in India is being underway in the state. The survey, which was launched on April 30 is undertaken by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and HOPARD the field agency. The LASI survey covered

five District namely: Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Chandel and Senapati and eight blocks/Sub-district namely: Porompat, Keirao Bitra, Lamshang, Lamphelpat, Thoubal, Machi, Paomata and Mao-Maram. Under these Districts/Blocks/Subdistricts, the survey will cover 40 SSU/Villages and will collect information from 1200 above respondents who are 45 years old above Male and Female. The survey will cover various aspects of their family and social network, health, health care utilization, work and employment, retirement and pension and their expectations. In Health

component, it will cover physical health measures like height, weight, hip and waist circumference, and tests of physiological measures such as blood pressure, lung function, grip strength, timed walk, and vision test, after obtaining informed consent. The survey health team will also collect few drops of respondent's blood sample through finger prick. The blood sample will be used to test for anaemia, diabetes (HbA1c), Epstein virus (EPV), C-reactive protein (CRP). Health result card of various tests done from the respondents will be provided for reference along with the

referral letter to the nearest public health facility. A community schedule is administered to key informants of the community to gather information village/ward/CEB level about infrastructures, welfare policies and programs. This Longitudinal Study will help to formulate policies and programs for the adults and older people in the State of Manipur and country. The concerned district officials and public are requested for full cooperation and support to the survey team which is valuable for successful completions of the survey.

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Present Human Rights Issues and Challenges

Issue 5: A violent protest erupted in the month of January 2016 after the suicide case of a 25-year-old Dalit student named Rohit Vemula and this case sparked nationwide protests which entrenched caste based discrimination. Many students and activist stormed on the streets and protested for reform in higher education. Not only this several issues and challenges have occurred and ended with the violations of human rights. It is just because the politicians of our country have got the habit to play

with the life of the people. It seems that Government have lost their moral compass and needs to be reminded again that are accountable to the people as well as towards the security of the people. Now given the growing crime nature and extent of violence there is an immediate need to specially address the women issue including the dalit and other marginalized communities issues more strongly. Now the issues of Women empowerment have been taken up as a Human right issue. It is high time that women in our society should be treated at par with

men in all the field of our society. In the recent years the government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken important strides especially with the legal reform with respect to the treatment of women, dalits and various vulnerable groups. Some of the initiatives launched by PM Narendra Modi are "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao", UJJAWALA - a comprehensive scheme for the prevention of trafficking and Rescue, "Stand-up India" scheme for Women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled

Tribe and many others. Apart from the various schemes, laws, Acts launched by the Government but still in many areas the government continued to fall short, both with respect to legal reform and implementation. Government still needs to pay more attention towards their laws and policies and check whether it is properly carried out. There is a dire need to sensitize the women, children, youth and various other communities of the people to spread about human rights and different ways to break its shackles.

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