

State today have just 9,990 Covishield vials in stock; Out of the around 30 lakhs population not even 5 lakhs people have been vaccinated

IT News
Imphal, May 11:

With the Covishield Vaccine left for just 99,900 people (9,990 vials) at the State Vaccine Store (SVS) Manipur as per record at 9.40 am today, and the number of vaccines arriving at the moment is limited, it is likely that this stock is likely to be exhausted if the state government fails to procure more vaccines at the next one or two days. It is likely that the ongoing vaccination may be put at halt.

A highly reliable source told Imphal Times that as per government order each vaccination centers in across the state should jab to 150 persons. And as per report uploaded by the Health department authority through whatsapp said that Vaccination will be conducted

today at 3 centers at Chandel district, 17 centers at Imphal East district, 12 centers at Imphal West district, 12 centers at Thoubal district, 8 centers at CCpur district, 7 centers at Kakching district and 1 at Jiribam. So the total number of centers that vaccinations are conducted today is at least 60 centers. This means the total vials to be in used today is 900 vials 9000 (nine Thousand) doses.

As per arithmetic, vaccine that has to be left with the State Vaccine Store (SVS) Manipur is 90,900 doses only i.e 9,090 vials only.

As per source from the State authority, around 2 lakhs 80 thousands have jabbed first dose vaccine and around 76 thousand have got the 2nd dose vaccine.

If one calculates, assuming at least 20 lakhs populations

of the state should be vaccinated that the state is not in the position to vaccinate even 5 lakhs people in addition with those already vaccinated in the coming one week. 15 lakhs people will have to wait for the vaccine at a time when experts claims the COVID-19 pandemic may reached its peak by middle week of this running month May.

If the government fails to procure more numbers of Covishield vaccine, it will be impossible for the citizen of Manipur to remain secure as maximum number of people are unlikely to get the vaccine.

It can be noted that even after the imposition of lockdown and curfew for the last 10 days the number of infection increases day after another with report of total positive case reported yesterday at 424 and 13 deaths.

Committee for hospitalization of COVID-19 patient is total flop, want a white paper on vaccination programme – MLA Joykishan

IT News
Imphal, May 11:

The committee constituted by the government of Manipur for admission to COVID Care center as well as to the Hospital for treatment is a total flop, said MLA of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency Khumukcham Joykishan while talking to a group media persons today.

He said that the telephone and the cell phone number provided for communication with the Committee often delay in picking up calls from even an MLA and the procedures for admission to either the CCC or at the Hospitals are too long and as a matter there are possibilities that people succumbed to Covid, said the MLA. Giving an example, he said that yesterday 13 (Thirteen people) of Thangmeiband Assembly constituency were tested positive with Covid-19 and among them 6 of them have agreed to undergo Home isolation and the 7 others have been taken to CCC at Bal Bhavan at late hours due to

non-availability of Ambulance. At Bal Bhavan, those officials let the seven persons waited inside the ambulance for hours on the ground that they didn't have proper permission from the Admission committee. MLA Joykishan said that when those in need of medical care are left to wait for such a long time, how on the earth will the patient survive?

"When they should be provided immediate assistant, how could they let the patients unattended for around 5 hours just because for lack of formalities", Joykishan asked. Even if there are beds available those patients were let waited for hours just because the Admission committee delayed in completing the formalities, the MLA said. He added that the private hospitals have increased the bed for Covid patients, but immediate admission can never be done due to the failure to act in time by the Admission committee.

Regarding the Vaccination, MLA Khumukcham Joykishan

said that earlier the government had stated that there will be no shortages of Covid vaccines. Now again they said that only 150 person can be vaccinated at each centers. And there is only one vaccination centers for the Thangmeiband Assembly constituency and as of now there are around 15,000 people still yet to be vaccinated.

Joykishan said that if supposed 150 persons have been vaccinated a day and minus the holidays, it will take at least 4 months to vaccinate the remaining people. And so if the 2nd dose have to be vaccinated, it will take around 8 months. Again if those 18 years above and 40 years below have to be vaccinated it will take around 1 years and 6 months. How will a person be protected during this 1 years and 6 months, Joykishan question the government and demanded a white paper on both the modalities of the vaccination programme as well as the Covid admission committee.

No link between 5 G technology and spread of COVID-19

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 11:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications has clarified that there is no link between the testing of the 5G mobile towers and the second wave of coronavirus.

The DoT release stated that several misleading messages are being circulated on various social media platforms claiming that the second wave of coronavirus has been caused by the testing of the 5G mobile towers. However these messages are false and have no scientific basis. Besides the testing

of the 5G network has not yet started anywhere in India. Mobile towers emit non-ionizing Radio frequencies having very minuscule power and are incapable of causing any kind of damage to living cells including human beings.

Contd. on page 2

Imphal Times stands with May 9 report regarding Koubru and KK reserved Forest; IHRA misleads

IT Desk
Imphal, May 11:

An organisation called International Human Rights Association (IHRA), which was never heard voicing for the cause of Human Rights of even the various ethnic people of the state or for any cause of violation of Human Rights issues not only in the country but also for any issue related to the world community, in a press statement tried to malign the authentic news report published in this news paper (Imphal Times) on May 9, 2021 issue under the heading "Whole of Mount Koubru Range was declared as Reserved Forest Area".

Reacting to the news report, the so call IHRA stated that "there was no such record of reserved forest in and around 1968 by the name 'KK Reserved Forest' in the pre-statedhood of Manipur. It is artificial and designed as similar to be true to be believed by the innocent people for buying their trust for the next general election purpose only". In this regard Imphal Times, once again reiterates that the declaration of KK Reserved Forest area published in the Manipur gazette is an official record with the government.

Imphal Times would like to add that there were only few villages inside and at the periphery of the KK Reserved area declared earlier that was published in Manipur Gazette Extraordinary dated May 26, 1961. The total area covered at that time was about 40 square miles. But due to objection from settlers of that area boundary of the KK Reserve Forest have been reduced to 33 sq. miles.

In 1968 June 3, another official Gazette (Extra ordinary Published by Authority) published after detail enquiry has been made by the then Forest Settlement Officer in accordance with the provision contained in Chapter II of the Indian Forest Act and following that as per an objection received from one subject, the creation of the said areas within the boundary mentioned in the 40 square mile proposed as in the notification dated July 31, 1961 has been disposed and another gazette notification was published with the final boundary of the KK Reserve

Forest with a area of 33 square miles. These are on government records. The so call IHRA, in its statement signed by one Mark Thangmang Haokip, who claimed to be the President of the IRHA Manipur Chapter has intimidated not only this newspaper but also the Forest Department of Manipur with indirect threats, by infringing to the freedom of media. (Leave aside Imphal Times, the Forest department should initiate legal action against the said person for intimidation to govt. department)

In connection with the Koubru

Reserved Forest, Government of Manipur published a Gazette notification dated July 24, 1976 covering an area of 54 square Kilometer. This is also on government record. Without having any evidence, the so called president of the IRHA, Mr. Mark Thangmang Haokip had tried to intimidate and malign the image of this newspaper by spreading fabricated stories against the report and also by trying to defame the Department of Forest, Government of Manipur, using social media platform and even by releasing a press statement to this media house.

Major inhabitant area under Kangpokpi districts claiming Koubru were Gram Panchayats before 2012

IT News
Imphal, May 11:

There has been claimed from certain sections of people regarding the legitimacy of the declaration of the Forest Reserved Area in the post statehood of Manipur on the ground that any such declaration in Hill areas need to get prior approval from the Hill Area Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. Whether the condition can be applied in Forest Act or not is left to the law department of the government of Manipur. But on further investigation by Imphal Times it is found that 4 major area of Kangpokpi district were Gram Panchayats under Imphal West ICD Block till June 28, 2012.

According to the Manipur Gazette (Extraordinary Publication) notification dated June 29, 2012 it has been stated as – "The entries in respect of Gram Panchayats at SL No. 25. Koubru Leikha, 26. Toribari, 27. Kalapahar and 28. Santalabari under Imphal West –ICD Block stand deleted". What make the then government of Manipur of 2012 made decision to convert it into Autonomous District Council (ADC) is an open secret. But the fact is that the Reserved Area was officially notified before the villages who were reportedly arguing its legitimacy were under Gram Panchayat and the Question of getting prior approval from the HAC does not arise.

It may also be noted that, Imphal Times have official documents– Manipur Gazette (Extraordinary publication)

which declared the name of the Gram Panchayats and the respective Pradhans and members. The Gazette was published on February 7, 1968. For the Kanglatombi Gram Panchayat, Ganga Singh Chhetri Nireula of the Pradhan and have 10 other members. For the Keithel Manbi Gram Panchayat, Devi Prasad Baskota of Parasol Basti was the Pradhan and have 10 members. As for the Kangpokpi Gram Panchayat, Bhumi Prasad Kha Khalar of kalapahar Bazar was the pradhan. Among the 10 members Yengkhom Bihari Singh of Kangpokpi Bazar, a Meitei was listed. That means that Kangpokpi had been a home of Meitei community in the late 60s or earlier.

CIC directs Ministry of Women & Child Development, GoI to collect information from 4 NGOs of Manipur

IT News
Imphal, May 11:

The Central Information Commission has directed the Deputy Secretary & CPIO, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to collect information from 4 NGOs of Manipur in connection with Scheme of Assistance for Construction of Hostel Building for Working Women with Day Care Centre for Children.

Information Commissioner Vanaja N Sarna directed the Ministry of Women & Child Development to collect desired information from 4 NGOs of Manipur namely 1. Loyalam Foundations, Yairpok2. Environment and Economic Management Association, Haobam Leirak DingthamLeikai, 3. Rural Development Women Organisation, Thoubal Wanggal and 4. Women Agency for Development Activities, Bishnupur Ward No. 4 and

whatever information supplied by them should be given to RTI Activist Khumanthem Dhanachandra Singh.

Khumanthem Dhanachandra Singh of Naoremthong LaishramLeirak filed an RTI application on 24th September, 2018 to the Ministry of Women & Child Development to provide all documents in connection with the Construction of Hostel Building for Working Women with Day Care Centre for Children by the above mentioned 4 NGOs of Manipur. As both the CPIO & FAA refused to provide the information stating that the information sought is a third party information and all the 4 NGOs have objected to the disclosure of the their documents, the activist filed 2nd appeal on 18th March, 2019 before the Central Information Commission, New Delhi as a last resort. Recently, the CIC listed the appeal for hearing on 5th May, 2021 at 11:00 AM.

During the hearing, the CIC noted that the reply of the CPIO is incomplete as no exemption under the RTI Act was claimed by the CPIO. Further, the documents sought by the appellant pertain to different organisations for construction of Hostel building for working women with day care facilities. Such information can in no way be termed to be personal information of any third party. It is pertinent to mention here that since all the organisations listed by the appellant in his RTI application are NGOs, they are not covered u/s 2(h) of the RTI Act. However, it may be noted by the CPIO that as per Section 2(f) of the RTI Act the definition of the term "information" includes such information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any prevalent law in force; it follows then that if information on the said paras is available

with the Respondent office or can be accessed from them, it should be parted with.

The CIC further enquired from the CPIO as to whether the above listed NGOs give or provide any data to the Ministry or they can access the information sought by the appellant, to which he submitted that they do submit some data to them. He also submitted that he will abide by the order of the Commission. The CIC, therefore directed the CPIO to collect the desired information from these NGOs and whatever information is supplied by them, the same should be given to the appellant.

Furthermore, the CPIO is directed to provide a revised reply to the appellant as per the discussions held during the hearing within a period of 30 days from the date of issue of this order under intimation to the Commission.

Negative impacts of technology in kids



By-Vijay GarG

The technology is everywhere. Just take a look around and think about it. Actually, take a look at your pocket or at this screen, you're looking at right now. Technology has brought many great things to us! Most of the times, technology helps us things quicker and easier.

Smartphones, tablets, personal computers, video games and so on... our life is surrounded by technology and our children are also using it at home, at school, everywhere. Our children will

learn many things we have not even dream about it right now. We know this is an important positive impact of technology.

But there are some negative impacts from technology overuse too, having serious consequences into our children's life. To get the best of digital devices, parents have to consider its downsides and prevent them. We sorted five negative impacts of technology you have to pay attention:

1. Relationships and Social Skills Issues

Kids are using mobile devices more and more, and they can become addicted to this, not spending enough time with their family and/or friends. They are more likely to be virtually connected with friends, sharing photos and texting online than actually meeting them in person.

The new generation is growing up playing games online, accessing websites (sometimes harmful websites), chatting online on Facebook, sharing photos on Instagram and Snapchat and so on. It doesn't mean that spending time online is a bad thing, but spending too much time online can really weaken the bond between the parents and the child, and also private the child to improve several social skills.

2. Health Problems

The overuse of mobile devices can be harmful to children's health. The more they use mobile devices, the less physical activities they do. The problem is that playing games online is combined with snacking, substituting the balanced alimentation. As children spend more time in front of those screens, most of the time in the couch, less time they spend outside playing, running and burning off calories. Over time, those habits can lead to a significant weight gain.

To prevent it from becoming a habit, parents can talk with their children about parental controls and use Screen Guide App to balance screen time. Remember: it's important to balance the quality and quantity of the time they spend on digital devices.

Teach your children that there is time for everything, even to play games online. But it's also important to balance it, otherwise many problems come along. Check out tips to have "The Tech Talk" with your children here.

3. Browsing Online Can Be Dangerous

While browsing online we often face harmful things such as phishing, virus and other dangers disguised as advertising. Most of the adults know it and can easily avoid them, but what about our children? Sometimes even the advert can be harmless to them. A study from 2005 says that 70% of teens aged between 15-17 have accidentally stumbled across pornography online. What about nowadays?

The children can go online and search for anything. But with the right monitoring, they will not access dangers websites, avoiding to meet dangerous people. Keep in mind that you can always guide your children to avoid those dangers.

One way to help children to be safe online is to use parental controls and Internet filtering tools to select the content they are able to access or even block browsers for as long as you consider it is appropriated.

4. Mobile Device Overuse Reduce Sleep Quality

According to the article "Kids Are Being Kept Awake by Their Phones Even When They're Not Using Them" over 72% of all children have at least one device in their bedroom. JAMA Pediatrics published a study with the big question: Is there an association between screen-based media device access or use in the sleep environment, and sleep quantity and quality?

Well, they found out that there is a strong and consistent evidence of a link between mobile devices overuse and reduced sleep quality. Our children are sleeping less than they should, but what's the matter with it?

A lack of sleep can have serious consequences on our brain. During the sleep, the brain does some "housekeeping" tasks, clearing things that aren't important and restoring the nerves networks to wake up again ready for a brand new day. But sleeping less means that we're depriving our brain of its essential needs and we will struggle on our activities during the day.

To help your children to get a better sleep, you can talk to them about the dangers around it. Also, work on reducing the screen time balancing it with Screen Guide Parental Control App. A balanced screen time can improve children's sleep quality. Check out 3 tips for your children to have a better night of sleep!

5. Is your smartphone affecting your relationship with your kids?

Take a time to think about it, have you checked your phone for notifications how many times? How many times did you open WhatsApp, WeChat, Facebook, or Instagram when you're with your children?

Well, most of the people we know, do this many times, after all, mobile devices are great to overcome boredom. But checking out mobile devices for notifications when we're around children has its downsides. According to a study published by University of Michigan Health System, "Parents' use of mobile technology around young children may be causing internal tension, conflicts and negative interactions with their kids".

Some of the plans of making family time even better are to get the time to reconnect with children. Use Screen Guide Parental Control App to balance your child's screen time and spend more offline time with them. Take the time to be with them, and do the stressful tasks later, when you're not with your children

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Unequal Development and increasing Ethnical enmity: What can be done to curb the increasing tension and enmity?

By-T Lunkhotal Haokip

While the world is struggling against the ongoing pandemic, identity politics and ethnical enmity in Manipur relentlessly continues and finds no time to pause. It is very disheartening to witness and difficult to digest the recent incidents of disharmonies viz., the brutal acts of burning down of Chassad village during such a difficult time and the death of Nine Tribal residents of Churachandpur. Many may attribute the root causes of such unwanted incidents to several reasons ranging across-identity politics, election politics, dominant and minority power struggle, prevalent corruption, fragmented development, unequal opportunities, etc. most of which may be partially or fully valid contributing factors.

This write-up mainly focuses on holistic development of all regions and all sections of the society which the state fails to deliver as an important factor to the occasional flashes of disharmonies and the increasing ethnical enmity between the three major Communities - the Meeteis, the Nagas, and the Kukis/ Zomis inhabiting the state since the pre-colonial era. This article finds that the very nature and structural design of the Hill Area Committee (HAC) and the Autonomous Districts Council (ADC) since its inception is unholistic and problematic. Going through the Structure and design of the HAC and ADC, every rational person would easily be able to ascertain how power distribution and role play would result in a fragmented development. This is mainly responsible for and is the primary reason for the visible fragmented development favouring the plain area which ultimately resulted to the increasing distrust and ethnical enmity between the three major communities. This may be hard to digest but experiences in ground reality would certainly clarify to any person in whom Humanity and rationality exist. This could, however, be debated to some extent by some groups on the context that the Development of all regions at one go is merely impossible but it has been about five decades since the attainment of a full-fledged statehood and thus such notions hold invalid for the unprivileged communities.

Thus the current as well as the coming government need to keep cognizance of these facts and should start taking necessary actions to harness development to promote peaceful coexistence. Various revolutionary movements in history tell us that "...perceived oppression (Political, Social, Economic, and Religion) or political incompetence on the part of the state machinery and functioning..." as the contributing factors for various forms of conflicts which ultimately resulted to larger revolts. Similar is the case in our State, where the Hill areas experienced unending negligence and oppression since Manipur became a full-fledged state. As such the notion of distrust and insecurity develops among the deprived sections towards the State's functioning and the dominant community. This is the main reason for discontentment that led to one way or another form of conflict. Taking an example of the 2015 incident when demand for the promulgation of the ILP by the dominant Meetei community was at its peak resulting to a huge turmoil, Human Rights activist Babloo Lotongbam said the bills have 'nothing against the security or interest of the tribals'. He blamed the violence on the state government's failure to take the Nagas and Kukis into confidence and explain to them the new proposed laws. While another, a women activist Ninalaxmi Nephram blamed the federal government for taking no interest in tackling the unrest. She blamed the violence on the pressures over land citing that about 60% of Manipur's population lives on 10% of its land in the plains (BBC, 2015). On the other front are the Tribals consisting of the Naga and Kuki/Zomi groups sternly standing against the bills.

Different people may have different narratives for the cause of such ugly and unwanted incidents. Taking the matter to a larger perspective none would easily deny that the notion of distrust and ethnical enmity plays a major role to aggravate the matter to such an uncontrollable extent. This has now entered the next level and thus the Issue of Indigenity: a politically incited propaganda and a condition in which none will become victorious comes to play and becomes a matter of subject to everyone and now extending even to the kids who could still barely read and write. Such a scenario not only aggravates the ethnical enmity and disharmony but also is perilous and would eventually lead to something catastrophic and futile in the long run. Besides these,

the 2015 incident brings to light the long-hidden fact of the State's incompetence. The concentration of the larger population (60%) in the plain area (10%) is a clear picture displaying the state's long policy-ridden resulting to the fragmented development favouring the plain area. In a democratic state where equitable development flourished, such unwanted incidents would find a hard chance to set its foot on. Dr. Alex Akhup in his paper, 'The Lived Reality of Koms in Manipur: An Emerging Political Perspective', states that the Existence and co-existence of every collective identity require mutual understanding and respect of spatial needs, human security and social development of entwined communities within the socio-legal democratic setup. As such, it is an urgent matter of need to realize on the part of the State as well as all Citizens that- all sections of the society are equally important as units of a society. No country or state could witness development when one group is left behind as the very definition of development states that 'Development is about expanding the capabilities of the disadvantaged, thereby improving their overall quality of life.' Dr. Alex Akhup further pointed out that, it is an issue of grave concern when the status of 'invisibility' of culturally indigenous tribes who are numerically fewer in number, are often ignored within the realm of the consciousness of both state and dominant ethnic groups. Such practices and conducts which often stream from Top-down approach policy on the part of the state soon resulted to unequal distribution of resources and then the emergence and development of discontentment among the unprivileged are inevitable. Thus, the policy formulators must not ignore the fact that a democratic system that facilitates, provides, and promotes a responsive public space for a respectful articulation of voices of the minorities within the public sphere is imperative and inevitable in all its proceedings to control and curb the already escalated Ethnical enmity and various forms of discontentment. Keeping in mind the adage, 'Better late than never', the State, being the supreme authority, could turn the whole episodes of the prevalent and increasing ethnical enmity by reflecting changes in its policies and functioning laying strong emphasis

on the disadvantaged minorities without which time would run out of its grasp as the saying goes 'Time and tide waits for none.' As a matter of need, the state could not remain a mere witness. The recent conflicts and the escalating ethnical enmity should be seen as an alarming signal to shift its approach in maintaining the functions of the state. The state by keeping due cognizance of the situation and needs of its subjects could implement several policies and plans to curb the increasing disharmonies. Among one of the many ways, Delimitation could be a good, viable and visible exercise provided the underlying policy is holistic, giving empowerment and equal opportunities to the Hill areas. The entire structure- power distribution and functioning of the HAC and the ADC needs reform with adequate members and in a manner to ensure holistic development of all regions and all sections of the society. Dr. Nehingpao Kigenid suggest that one possible amicable solution for the government is to implement the Sixth Schedule in the hill areas. Under such a political arrangement, the Kukis and Nagas would enjoy autonomy in their respective areas but remain within the State of Manipur (The Hindu, 2015). Moreover, there has to be a paradigm shift on the part of the state's approach to imbibe the guiding policy from the quote, 'Economic Development is the cure for all ills...' which is non-negotiable for the good of all.

Last but not the least, this article envisioned a better Manipur where every citizen would witness equitable development and would live in peace and solitary, free from ethnical enmity. Perhaps the old, now unused and forgotten slogan but with a very strong meaning 'Chingmi Tammi amani' should be put to life. This can be the primacy, the guiding ideology behind all policies and plans the state should adopt to witness equitable development and a future free from polarized groups who aggravate ethnical enmity out of distrust and insecurity. Only then, Manipur could become the true 'Sana Leibak' sooner or later.

(The article is partly based on the findings of the dissertation submitted by the writer with the theme 'Perspectives on Urbanisation and Challenges to Governance in Churachandpur Town'. @TLHaokip)

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No link between 5G technology and spread of COVID-19

DoT has prescribed norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (i.e. Base Station Emissions) which are 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by WHO.

DoT has a well-structured process so that Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) strictly adhere to these prescribed norms. However, any citizen having any apprehension about any mobile tower emitting radio waves beyond the safe limit prescribed by the department, a request for

Electromagnetic Field Radiation (EMF) measurements/testing can be made on "Tarang Samachar" portal at <https://tarangsamachar.gov.in/emfportal>.

To allay the fear of general public regarding health effects of EMF emission from mobile tower, DoT has been taking several steps to generate awareness among the public about EMF radiation such as Nation-wide Awareness Programme, distribution of pamphlets/ information brochure on various topics related to EMF,

publishing detailed information on EMF related issues on the website of DoT, advertisements in newspapers, launch of "Tarang Samachar" portal etc.

The field units of DoT have also been organizing public awareness events so that more and more people are made aware about the scientific facts on health effects of EMF emissions from mobile towers.

It may be recalled that last week, DoT, granted permissions to TSPs for conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology. The TSPs include Bharti Airtel Ltd., Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd. and MTNL. These TSPs have tied up with original equipment manufacturers and technology providers which are Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT. In addition, Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd. will also be conducting trials using its own indigenous technology.

The experimental spectrum is being given in various bands which include the mid-band (3.2 GHz to 3.67 GHz), millimeter wave band (24.25 GHz to 28.5 GHz) and in Sub-Gigahertz band (700 GHz). TSPs will also be permitted to use their existing spectrum owned by them (800 MHz,

900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2500 MHz) for conduct of 5G trials.

The duration of the trials, at present, is for a period of 6 months. This includes a time period of 2 months for procurement and setting up of the equipment. The each TSP will have to conduct trials in rural and semi-urban settings also in addition to urban settings so that the benefit of 5G Technology proliferates across the country and is not confined only to urban areas.

The TSPs are encouraged to conduct trials using 5G technology in addition to the already known 5G Technology. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has also approved the 5G technology, advocated by India, as it facilitates much larger reach of the 5G towers and Radio networks. The 5G technology has been developed by IIT Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWIT) and IIT Hyderabad.

The objectives of conducting 5G trials include testing 5G spectrum propagation characteristics especially in the Indian context; model tuning and evaluation of chosen equipment and vendors, testing of indigenous

technology; testing of applications (such as tele-medicine, tele-education, augmented/ virtual reality, drone-based agricultural monitoring, etc.) and to test 5G phones and devices.

5G technology is expected to deliver improved user experience in terms of data download rates (expected to be 10 times that of 4G), up to three times greater spectrum efficiency, and ultra low latency to enable Industry 4.0. Applications are across a wide range of sectors such as agriculture, education, health, transport, traffic management, smart cities, smart homes, and multiple applications of IOT (Internet of Things).

DoT has specified that the trials will be isolated and not connected with the existing networks of TSPs. Trials will be on non-commercial basis. The data generated during the trials shall be stored in India. TSPs are also expected to facilitate the testing of the indigenously developed use cases and equipment as part of the trials. One hundred applications/ use cases selected by DoT after conducting the recent Hackathon on 5G applications can also be facilitated in these trials.