

Water supply project runs into rough weather

Agartala, Sep 18 (UNI) An ambitious project to ensure supply of purified potable water to dwellers of the state capital has run into rough weather because of poor infrastructure and short-sighted planning of the state government.

A review of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) under CSE's 10th Media Fellowship programme has revealed that only 17 per cent of the population of Agartala was getting access to municipal water so far.

According to the Tripura Urban Development Department records, the main water source of the city has production capacity of 80 million litres a day (MLD) if the water is accessible for 16 hours and this resource is enough for the needs of the city's population up to 2011 (projected population is about 44 lakh plus), but storage of water has become a major problem now. Much of the problem for the city planners arises from the fact that the state government has extended the Agartala Municipal Area from

16 sq km to 62.6 sq km without enhancing the amenities, the report underlined, adding that the state government was asking for funds under the JNNURM's City Development Plan (CDP) when Agartala already witnessed an unplanned growth.

Records state that as many as 253 new buildings have come up in Agartala so far in both public and private initiatives since 2007 but there no master plan has been prepared for the capital city yet.

The unplanned growth of the city created chaos and deprived the inhabitants from basic minimum services.

The latest building rules in India contemplate Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting (RRH) to minimise the dependency on piped and ground water. Unfortunately, not a single building in Agartala, including the new Civil Secretariat Complex and shopping complex, have any rainwater harvesting facilities.

The City Development Plan (CDP) under JNNURM was prepared to ensure access

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