

Agartala on its way to becoming a smart city

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If we compare Agartala of couple of years back with the Agartala at present, the face of the city is changing drastically with the joint efforts of the State Government, the Agartala Smart City Ltd and the Municipality Corporation. Starting from beautifully painting the walls in the city to maintaining and beautifying the city, I personally think that public would not like to ruin the paintings by spitting or by relieving oneself on which will in turn help keep our city clean. “There are several ongoing works in the city taken up by the Agartala Smart City Ltd to beautify the city,” said the Director of Agartala Smart City Ltd, Shailesh Kumar Yadav. He said, “The road starting from airport to the city gives a first impression of the city to the tourists which is why the road will soon have 4 laning, 20 m width and footpath for the pedestrians investing 94 crore rupees in two years. Apart from this, there is smart road project which is being financially assisted by the Asian Development Bank. “It was observed that 3km of the main road in the city is carpeted with black top but does not have footpath on both sides”, said Mr. Yadav. He said that RCC trailing footpath will be constructed and the hanging electrical wires will be trenched underground and the road will be widened. “The smart road project costs 440 crore rupees and is currently under tendering process. This process normally takes time”, said the Director of Agartala Smart City Ltd.



Paver Block Road at 79 Tilla under AGCL

Speaking about smart roads, recently plastic road was laid in front of the Women’s college for the first time in the state using plastic waste intelligently as a small pilot project which eventually may be extended and continued all

over the state. “This project was discussed with PM Modi in the year 2019 for the betterment of the roads in Tripura,” said Mr. Yadav. Unlike other plastic materials, plastic bags cannot be recycled again, so their disposal stands as a big problem. Therefore, the plastic bags are first shredded into small pieces and then melted and mixed into bitumen. So, the solution is not 100% plastic. The plastic road was made with the mixture of bitumen and plastic to hold the road strength and will be water resistant and durable. “Normal road is generally made of bitumen which lasts 5-6 years. So maintaining the prescribed ratio, the solution was made with bitumen, some amount of shredded plastic bags and stone chips. The quality of the newly made road is comparatively better to other roads and is absolutely smooth”, expressed Mr. Yadav. It is being hoped that it will stay longer.

“We are developing 10 junctions in the city,” said the Agartala Smart City Ltd Director. The junctions at IGM Chowmuhani, Paradise Chowmuhani, G.B Bazar, Orient Chowmuhani, Battala are under construction. The junction at the Secretariat and Post Office Chowmuhani are being beautified. The ongoing construction work can be seen at the Post Office Chowmuhani junction to build the proposed ‘Tree of Life’ structure under the ASCL after replacing the war tank at the Albert Ekka War Memorial. He also said, “Along with the construction of junctions, the corners of the road are also being geometrically corrected after proper scientific survey of latitude and longitude alongwith GPS survey.” He said that 4 lane roads will be made and junction will be broadened in Lichubagan. He also said that Sachin Dev Burman memorial will be built there. About the Albert Ekka War Memorial, he said that it is a combined war memorial for the army and the civilians.



Proposed concept plan of Tree of Life at Post Office Chowmuhani



Improvement of Junctions at various locations taken up under ASCL



Proposed concept plan of Albert Ekka War Memorial park

“There are several ongoing works but there is a need for open space in the city where people can go exercise, walk, have conversations with friends, for recreation, both for children, adults and the senior citizens,” said Mr. Yadav. There are few parks in the open space projects like Jagannath Bari Park near Agartala Press Club, Children’s Park, open gym for adults and old people and yoga pavilion for adults and senior citizens.



Open Gym at College Tilla

He said, “Some water bodies are being beautified. The pond behind Dimsagar is being beautified. 3 ponds in front of MBB College are also being beautified. Apart from that, work has been started for beautifying a pond at MG Bazar Golbazar which is in very bad condition.” Apart from this, he also said that tensile and aesthetic readymade multi-purpose structure/kiosk is being prepared on the open space of Children’s Park in the city where there will be no need to build extra pandal for exhibitions, events and fairs. The work has already been started and will be completed by August 2021. The project costs 7.63 crore rupees. “This will become a landmark,” expressed Mr. Yadav.

We surely can see developmental changes around starting from Water ATMs, Modern bus stands, Public washrooms, Heart of Humanity outlets in collaboration with Purvodaya (an NGO) to beautification of the city. Hopefully after all the projects are completed, Tripura will climb another several steps in the direction of ease of living.
