

Government of Tripura  
Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs

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S-6752

Agartala, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

**Rejoinder**

Bengali daily newspaper namely **Pratibadi Kalam** dated **20/10/2022** at its page no. 01 has made following **misguiding & false claims** :-

1. That Agartala Smart City Ltd. is not doing any developmental work.
2. As per reply to RTI application of one Mr. Bilash Chandra Roy of Khosh Bagan question No. (5) A social organisation "Purvodaya" has opened their outlets in prominent areas of Agartala City, whether before opening the outlets, they have taken any permission from Smart City Department? And are they providing any rent charges and electricity bill to Smart City? If yes copy of the record. The answer given was 'No'.  
The newspaper has concluded that before opening the outlet, "Purvodaya" has not taken any permission from any authority and they are not paying any rent or electricity charges to anyone.
3. That Agartala Smart City Ltd. (ASCL) has done earth filling in MBB College Lake and that ASCL had earlier announced setting up of an Eco park in the MBB College Lake area.

**Statement of Agartala Smart City Limited (ASCL) :-**

1. The Newspaper or any person who desires of knowing the development works being done by ASCL can see the various projects of ASCL & their status on the website of ASCL namely [agartalsmartcity.tripura.gov.in](http://agartalsmartcity.tripura.gov.in) and the newspaper should desist from making false or misleading claims. The newspaper namely Pratibadi Kalam must be well aware that hon'ble President of India recently visited one of the completed prestigious projects of ASCL namely "Albert Ekka War Memorial" on 12/10/2022. ASCL was awarded during India Smart City Awards Contest (ISAC) for its Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) at Surat in April 2022. ASCL has also received national award in Urban Mobility Awards 2020.
2. The reply given to the RTI application of Mr. Bilash Chandra Roy was absolutely correct. ASCL is a registered Company under the Companies Act 2013. And it does not give any permission for use of land or does not collect rent or any electricity charges from any entity in Agartala. However, the 03 "Heart of Humanity" outlets of sizes 3.6 m X 2 m each at locations namely Shankar Chowmuhani, near GB Bazar & Radha Nagar Motor stand were opened after written permission from the then Mayor of the the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) vide permission dated 20/06/2020 for purpose of 'collection and distribution of food, clothes, books, etc, free of cost to the poor'. The task of collecting electricity charge or giving electricity connection is not of ASCL. Any citizen of this state is aware that this is the job of Tripura State Electricity Corporation Ltd (TSECL).  
The newspaper and its editor should contact the TSECL to find out about the electricity charges. ASCL is not paying electricity charges of "Purvodaya" outlets, neither has ASCL ever made any financial expenditure for "Purvodaya" or any other non-governmental entity. The information in the said RTI Application was whether the Smart City Department is collecting any rent or any charges or any electricity bill from the Purvodaya. Answer provided was 'NO' which was factually absolutely correct. The newspaper editor needs to read provisions of the RTI Act 2005,

according to which information can not be manufactured merely for replying to an RTI application.

3. Regarding MBB College lake, no earth filling has been done by ASCL in the said lake & there will be no Eco park in the MBB College Lake surrounding areas. The ASCL with assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) is implementing a project namely "Revitalization of MBB College Lake & Surrounding areas including Operation & Maintenance for 05 years" wherein no earth filling has been done or will be done. The environmental impact assessment (named Initial Environmental Examination or IEE) report for the said project is available on the website of ASCL at link <https://agartala.smartcity.tripura.gov.in/notifications?page=1> as per the regulation of Asian Development Bank & is also available on the website of the Asian Development Bank on link <https://www.adb.org/projects/53262-001/main#tabs-0-2>.

The newspaper namely Pratibadi Kalam is thus requested to publish this rejoinder including the factual position and not to publish non-verified, misleading news stories which are violative of ethical journalism.

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