

Anti-Poverty tactics make little headway

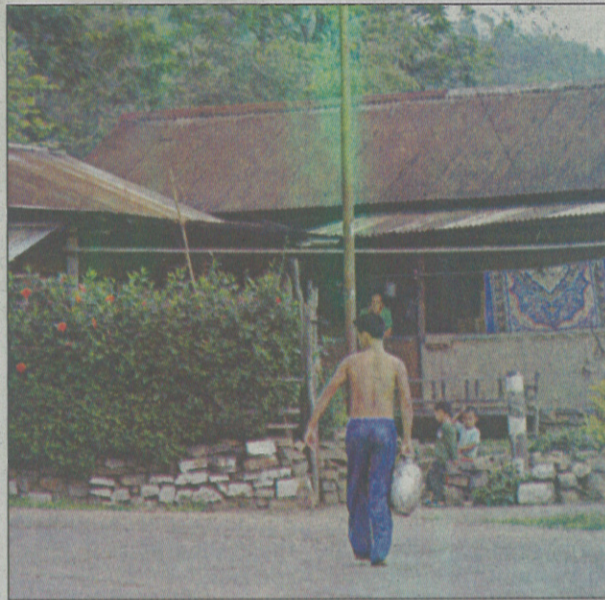
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Mounting Per Capita Income and rising literacy rates, pushed by infrastructural ambitions of the Government of Nagaland for the state's chief commercial district - Dimapur - remains confined to urban aspirations. In 2004, Nagaland's first Human Development report listed Dimapur district's Human Development Index at 0.73 - the highest of the then 8 districts. The aggregate, however, was not comprehensible on points that indicate the extent of underlying poverty, increased rural-unemployed persons and economic tensions in the rural areas of the district.

Of the roughly 3,08,382 (2001) estimated population, the financial district is also home to the largest concentration of the rural "lower-working-class" in Nagaland - an estimated 1,84,490 (2001, NEDFi) while only a comparatively smaller 1,28,392 were concentrated in the urban areas. But the challenge posed to poverty-alleviation strategies is mainly the BPL sec-

Human Development Index skirts Dimapur district's underprivileged



A Naga boy walks home with drinking water collected from a nearby stream, May 31, about 15 Kms towards Kohima. (Sorei Mahong/Photo)

tions: So far the department of Food and Civil Supplies has identified 11,838 BPL families in Dimapur district.

Unavailability of official data or statistical banks on the number or status of rural poverty or

unemployed subject-matter in Dimapur is a currently unassailable hindrance to making feasible assessments on the human development aspects of Dimapur's rural poor.

Continued on page 5

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page - 1