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**CM, World Bank South-Asia V-P Meet: Both Sides Agree Upon Fast-Tracking Project Completion**

**CM Launches 'Public Procurement Portal' for 'Transparency'**

**Dispur, August 22:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday chaired a meeting with a World Bank delegation led by its South Asia Regional Vice-President Martin Raiser and India Country-Director Auguste Tano Kouameheld at Janata Bhawan here.

The Government of Assam side led by the Chief Minister and the World bank delegation discussed the ongoing external aided projects (EAPs) and the proposed EAPs financed by the Bretton Woods organisation.

The two sides agreed upon fast-tracking the completion of the remaining portions of the ongoing projects and expediting the approval procedure for launching those on the pipeline.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister praised the World Bank for its wholehearted support in realising the growth potential of Assam. The Chief Minister exuded confidence the relationship between Assam and the Bretton Woods institution would only grow stronger in days to come, as the two embark upon newer projects and schemes in the state.

The Chief Minister, in presence of the World Bank delegation, also inaugurated the "State Public Procurement Portal", which will be a one-stop solution to public procurements of various magnitudes and varieties. This, the Chief Minister sated, is aimed at ensuring transparency in the public procurement by the government of Assam. It is worth noting that this portal is the second of its kind to be launched by a state government.

Cabinet minister Jayanta Mallabaruah, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister Pabitra Margherita, Additional Chief Secretary Paban Borthakur, Additional Chief Secretary Rabi Sankar Prasad and several senior functionaries of the government were present at the meeting.

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