

## ATDC to boost 'employability' for Manipur youth



In its effort to skill India's North- Eastern region further and add wings to the creative minds of the youth and women, ATDC has elevated its SMART Centre in Manipur into an ATDC Vocational Institute (AVI). Manipur Chief Minister Shri Okram Ibobi Singh inaugurated the new AVI at DIC Complex, Porompat recently, in the presence of State Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam; Shri Virender Uppal, Chairman AEPC, ATDC & IAM; O. Nabakishore, Additional Chief Secretary of Manipur; L. Lakher, Principal Secretary (Ind & Com); Shri Hari Kapoor, VC, ATDC, Shri H.K.L. Magu and Dr Darlie O. Koshy, DG & CEO, ATDC & IAM. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said with being a vast country having around 500 million unemployed youths, there is great needs to impart appropriate skills to the youth to enable them get suitable jobs. "Manipur being home to various ethnic communities each having own culture and traditional attires, there is tremendous scope for growth of fashion industry in the state. I request ATDC to assist the Government of Manipur in bringing more apparel manufacturers to the state," Shri Singh stated. He assured all possible assistance for ATDC skill development initiatives for the unemployed youth in the state. "I am very happy that in a relatively short span of one year, the ATDC-SMART Centre has been elevated to an AVI. Over 200 students from ATDC Imphal have already taken jobs in the apparel industry and 60 are pursuing studies or are following entrepreneurial ambitions," Shri Uppal told the audience. The Chairman thanked the Government of Manipur, especially the State Department of Commerce and Industry, for helping the vocational skill provider in establishing ATDC SMART Centres and the AVI in the state. "During the pilot project period starting from October 2010 till July 2014, ATDC has exceeded its training target by crossing 1,27,000 candidates trained achieving 102 percent against the target set by the Ministry of Textiles. This is a big achievement in the area of livelihood generation for youth especially girls and women," informed Dr. Darlie O. Koshy.