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Houses, for all poor families by 2020: CM

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Arun Kumar Singh, principal secretary of the state urban development department, said the government will soon complete construction of the remaining 70,000 houses and more people qualifying under the given criteria would be benefited.

The rituals of 'griha praves' were carried out amid Vedic chants at Harmu ground, where the CM expressed happiness for being able to bring smiles to the faces of homeless. "Not a single poor family will remain homeless by 2020 and our government will ensure that these families also get access to clean drinking water, electricity, toilet and LPG connection with a cooking stove," he said. The CM asked the administration to ensure that the houses are registered in the name of women member of the family.

Das also declared all 41 ULBs to be free of open defecation and reiterated the government's commitment for

making the entire state ODF by 2018. "We are also working towards eradicating poverty by 2022. By linking people with various income schemes through skill development and training, the government will ensure that the household income of every individual reaches Rs 10,000 to 15000 by that time," Das said.

Earlier in the day, Das and Governor Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and second prime minister of the country Lal Bahadur Shastri. Murmu said everyone should adopt khadi and simplicity as way of life. "This will be true tribute to the Mahatma," she said.

Laying stress on use of mother tongue, self-reliance and good governance, Das said his government is following the path shown by Gandhi. People are trained to earn their livelihood from forest products like Lac and Tasar. Remembering Shastri, the CM said the people need to take inspiration from his life.