

DDC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson; other delegations call on Lt Governor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson, DDC Ganderbal, Sangeeta Bhagat, Vice-Chairperson DDC Doda, delegation of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu, besides Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.

Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal accompanied by Former Legislator, Sh. Ishfaq Jabbar met the Lt Governor and apprised him of various developmental issues of her district pertaining to upgradation of health facilities at DH Ganderbal; strengthening of road network, besides other matters of public welfare.

Similarly, Sangeeta Bhagat discussed with the Lt



DGPC Jammu members interacting with Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Governor about identification and promotion of more tourist destinations like Seoz Dhar, Kellar, Jantron, Dedhni, Desa valley, and giving prominence to District Doda on the map of tourism, besides other issues.

While interacting with the delegations, the Lt Governor impressed upon them to continue their endeavour for promoting the welfare of general public of their respective districts. He assured them of redressal of all their genuine issues on merit.

Meanwhile, a delegation of DGPC Jammu led by Karan

Singh Wazir, comprising its General Secretary, Fateh Singh, members Avtar Singh, Manmohan Singh, and Narinder Singh presented before the Lt Governor the issues of Sikh community of J&K.

The issues included promotion of Punjabi language; conducting elections of the DGPC J&K, besides other welfare issues of Sikh community.

President JKNPF also met the Lt Governor and raised various issues pertaining to welfare of daily wagers and Anganwadi workers, among

others.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by the delegations and assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up on priority and redressed on merit at the earliest. Later, a joint delegation comprising Lalit Mahajan, Chairman Federation of Industries (FOI) Jammu; Satish Kaul, Chairman JK Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association; S.K. Bansal, President, J&K Pesticide Manufacturing Association, and Ajit Lal Bawa, President, Kathua

Industrial Units Association, called on the Lt Governor and expressed their gratitude for various steps taken by the UT government with regard to Industrialization and employment generation.

They discussed with the Lt Governor various issues for sustainable growth of existing units, besides promotion of new Industries for generating better employment avenues for the local youth.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation that their suggestions would be duly incorporated in the decision making process.

India's COVID vaccination programme one of world's most successful: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's vaccination programme against COVID-19 has been one of the most successful and largest in the world, the Union health ministry said on Sunday and termed as misleading some media reports that claimed the country has missed its COVID-19 inoculation targets.

Since the start of the national COVID-19 vaccination drive on January 16 last year, India has administered to over 90 per cent of its eligible citizens first doses and 65 per cent second doses.

"In a recently published news article by a reputed international news agency, it has been claimed that India has missed its vaccination target. This is misleading and does not represent the complete picture," the ministry said in a statement.

In the fight against the global pandemic, India's national vaccination programme has been one of the most successful and largest vaccination programmes when compared to many developed western nations with significantly low population base to vaccinate, it said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a tweet said, "India under PM Narendra Modi Ji's leadership is running the world's most successful and largest vaccination programme. India's COVID-19 drive has performed better than many developed western nations with significantly low population base to vaccinate."

In the vaccination drive, so far, the country has achieved several milestones, which have no precedent in the world, including administer-

ing over 100 crore doses in less than nine months, administering 2.51 crore doses in a single day and several times administering one crore doses in a day, the ministry said.

"Compared with other developed nations, India has done a better job in administering Covid vaccination to its eligible adult citizen of 93.7 crore (as per the RGI (Registrar General of India)) across all its states and UTs (union territories)," it underlined.

"In case of first dose coverage to the eligible population, the US has covered only 73.2 per cent of its population, the UK has covered 75.9 per cent of its population, France has covered 78.3 per cent of its population and Spain has covered 84.7 per cent of its population, the ministry said.

India has already covered 90 per cent of its eligible population with first dose of vaccine against COVID-19, it said in the statement.

Similarly, for the second dose, the US has covered 61.5 per cent of its population, the UK has covered 69.5 per cent of its population, France has covered 73.2 per cent of its population, and Spain has covered 81 per cent of its population, the ministry said.

India has covered over 65 per cent of its eligible population with second dose of vaccine.

Over 11 states and UTs have already achieved 100 per cent first dose vaccination coverage, while three states and UTs have already achieved 100 per cent full vaccination against COVID-19 (both first and second dose), it said.

Many states and UTs are soon expected to achieve 100 per cent vaccination very

quickly, the statement said.

Under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme, the 'Har Ghar Dastak' (house-to-house) campaign was implemented from November 3 and this includes mobilisation and awareness on vaccination by reaching out to all missed out or dropped out eligible beneficiaries.

"This has also resulted in an increase of first dose coverage by 11.6 per cent since introduction of the campaign. While the second dose coverage increased by 28.9 per cent in the same period," the statement stated.

Keeping in view the global surge in COVID-19 cases, detection of the Omicron variant, scientific evidence, global best practices and the suggestions of the COVID-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) as well as of the Standing Technical Scientific Committee (STSC) of the NTAGI, it was decided to further refine the scientific prioritisation and coverage of COVID-19 vaccination of teenagers in the age-group of 15-18 years to be started from January 3, it said.

Further strengthening India's fight against COVID-19, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has given approvals to two additional vaccines. These include Biological-E's Corbevax vaccine and SII's Covovax vaccine for restricted use in emergency situation. This takes the number of vaccines given restricted use in emergency situation in India to eight, the statement said.

Parl panel to examine bill to raise legal age of marriage has one woman member out of 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The parliamentary panel assigned to examine the landmark bill which seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women to 21 has only one woman MP out of 31 members.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, which will have wider influence over society especially females, was introduced in Lok Sabha during the winter session and referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

The bill, piloted by the Women and Child Development Ministry, seeks to increase the legal age of marriage from 18 to 21.

According to the members' list of the parliamentary standing committee, led by senior BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabudhe, available on the Rajya Sabha website, TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman among the 31 members.

When asked about it, Dev said it would have been better if there were more women MPs in the panel. "I wish there were more women MPs in the committee but having said that we will make sure all interest groups are heard," Dev told PTL. Echoing similar sentiments, NCP MP Supriya Sule, who has been raising women-centric issues in parliament, said there should have been more women MPs in the panel which will deliberate on issues



related to women.

However, she added that the chairman has the power to invite people before the panel. So for more inclusive and wider discussions, he can invite other women MPs. The legal age of marriage for women is being raised by the Centre on the recommendations of the Jaya Jaitly Committee that was constituted by the WCD Ministry in June 2020. When contacted, Jaitly said it wouldn't be fair if 50 percent of the committee members examining this proposed legislation are not women.

"I would request all political parties especially those which have been supportive of women reservation to replace their MPs on the panel with female MPs if the system permits or suggest their MPs to consult female MPs while deliberating on this important legislation," Jaitly told PTL.

The Department-Related Standing Committees are permanent, while joint and select committees are constituted from time to time to deal with bills and relevant subjects of various ministries.

These panels are constituted by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports is a Rajya Sabha administered Committee.

Parties nominate members based on their strength in the House. The proposed law will apply to all communities in the country and, once enacted, will supersede existing marriage and personal laws.

The introduction of the Bill was opposed by some members who contended that the move infringed upon several personal laws in violation of fundamental rights and demanded that it be referred to a parliamentary panel for greater scrutiny.

The bill seeks to increase the legal age for women to marry to 21 years, as is the provision for men. It seeks to amend seven personal laws - the Indian Christian Marriage Act; the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act; the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act; the Special Marriage Act; the Hindu Marriage Act; and the Foreign Marriage Act.

Time to speak up against insult of women, says Rahul Gandhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called upon people to raise their voice against insult of women and communal hatred and said it was time to speak up against the menace.

His comments on Twitter came amid outrage by netizens and women rights groups over the dodgy 'Bulli Bai' app that has listed Muslim women for "auction".

Hundreds of Muslim women, with photographs, were listed for "auction" on the app. It has happened for the second time in less than a year. The app appeared to be a clone of Sulli Deals which triggered a row last year.

"The insult of women and communal hatred will stop only when we stand against it in one voice. The year has changed, the situation should also change. It is time to speak up," Gandhi tweeted using the

hashtag 'no fear'.

After photographs of at least 100 influential Muslim women were uploaded for auction on the app sparking widespread outrage, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said GitHub, the hosting platform, has confirmed blocking the user and that CERT and police authorities are coordinating further action.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) is the nodal agency that deals with cyber security threats.

The minister did not elaborate on the action being taken.

Vaishnaw on Sunday tweeted: "Government of India is working with police organisations in Delhi and Mumbai on this matter." Police of both the metropolitan cities have registered cases in the matter.

The National Commission for Women has written to the Delhi Police to expedite its action in the case.

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Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu
Public Notice

Whereas, vide Government Order No. 01-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated 01-01-2022, a high level 03 Member Committee headed by Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, J&K has been constituted to ascertain the reasons behind tragic incident at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine in Katra, Reasi on 01-01-2022.

Accordingly, it is for the information of the General Public that any person who desires to furnish any facts, statements, electronic evidence etc. regarding the said incident; may share the same on the email id: divcomjmu-jk@nic.in or Whatsapp No: 09419202723 or Landline No: 0191-2478996 by or before 05-01-2022. Any person who desires to meet in person, may appear before the said Enquiry Committee in person between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 05-01-2022 in the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Rail Head Complex, Panama Chowk; to furnish any statements/ facts/ evidence.

DIP/J-11378/21
Dated:- 02/01/2022

Sd/-
(Dr. Raghav Langer) IAS
Divisional Commissioner,
Jammu



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