

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR DURING HIS INTERACTION WITH THE DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS OF IMPHAL EAST AND WEST DISTRICTS ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2021.

All the District Level Officers,
Friends from Electronic and Print Media.

After I have assumed the Office of the Governor of the State, my first desire was to travel in all the District Headquarters of the State just to acquaint with the people and know the culture and tradition of the area. Till date, I have covered six Hill Districts and three Valley Districts and I am, indeed, very happy to meet all of you today most important Districts of the State - Imphal West and East.

As you all are well aware that people all over the world are facing unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the prompt action of our Government, this dreaded disease is going to be overcome very soon. Here, I would like to appeal to all sections of the society to get vaccinated, which is the best way to defeat this pandemic. Vaccination is not limited to any person or place, it is the responsibility of everyone to keep themselves vaccinated as well as their families, relatives and friends to make us a free-COVID persons in the real sense. It is the collective responsibility of both Government and people living in the State. One important component of the vaccination is prevention of this dreaded disease. We may not be able to eliminate this pandemic within a fortnight but may be able to prevent it because of precaution. Everybody knows "Prevention is better than cure". In order to enable us to prevent this dreaded disease, first of all we all have to be vaccinated. Government is making relentless efforts to vaccinate and cooperation from the general public is quite mandatory at this critical juncture. The relentless efforts of Health workers and front-line warriors are indeed commendable and praiseworthy by one and all.

As far as my opinion is concerned, vaccination is the first priority to prevent this pandemic and, therefore, I would like to make my sincere appeal to all you to get vaccinated at the earliest possible. This will be the only best way to prevent this pandemic at this critical juncture. However, unfortunately, I have come to know that the percentage of vaccination in the Valley Districts is quite impressive whereas in the Hill Districts it is quite opposite. We have to find out the reasons why the progress is lagging behind the valley Districts. Here, the role of District Level Officers is very important. I am really disappointed to know that the percentage of vaccination in the Hill Districts till date is even below 20%. On the other hand, I am also very happy to learn that the State Government has already launched "Vaccination Express" in the Hill Districts which is, indeed, a positive step of the Government. Let us all cooperate without any hesitation.

As you are all well aware, Swachh Bharat Mission, a clean India campaign is equally important and also the responsibility of all of us. It is a mass movement launched by the Government of India under the leadership of our Prime Minister to make India, Clean India by 2019. It was the dream of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who always emphasised for the people on swachhta for a healthy and prosperous life. Unfortunately, it has not been so effective before because of the lack of awareness and cooperation of the people, lack of supervision of concerned Departments, lack of accountability of the concerned people, lack of dedication and sincerity among the Government machineries.

The "Swachh Bharat" mission was launched on 2nd of October in 2014, the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, popularly known as Bapu and it is aimed to be completed on 2nd of October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Bapu. Cleanliness is holiness and this mission is intended to cover all the rural and urban areas for maintaining cleanliness all over the country.

Further, maintenance of cleanliness and hygiene in Manipur would bring the great opportunity in the State to enhance its economic status by improving tourism as well as keeping the citizens healthy and happy. Cleanliness would keep everyone happy and healthy in all respects physically, mentally, socially and intellectually by reducing the chance of diseases. I am fully confident that all the District Level Officers will endeavour to keep the whole Districts clean and green by strengthening the existing natural cover and also by developing new green cover in these two Districts.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.