



RGLWI - BULLETIN - X

(For Members Only)

COVID-19

RELATED CHARITIES OF LODGES

Spirited Corona Relief Volunteers of RGLWI



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RGLWI - "Spirited Corona Relief Volunteers"- REPORT

Lodge Vidarbha No 470, Nagpur



Lodge in association with Jatan Sanstha today donated 300 bottles 70 ml and 300 masks to super speciality hospital today. I thank Shri Vedprakashji of Jatan Sanstha for the masks. These masks and sanitizers will be distributed to blood donors and were donated on the request of Dr S.N. Parate.

Lodge also donated today the following to various shelter homes
 Close up Paste 500
 Wheel Powder 100



Parachute Oil 200

Tooth Brush 500

Comb 500

And Sanitizer 500ml qty 50

70 MI qty 100

W.M.Vinayak Kewadkar, Bro.Mayuresh, Bro. Rahul Trivedi, Bro.Milind Naphade and Bro Mohan Balani were present.

Lodge Chattisgarh No.85, Raipur

Lodge has donated sum of Rs 12,000/- to Maharashtra Mandal Raipur for charity against COVID-19. The cheque is being handed over



to Shri Ajay Kale by W.B Subodh Toley and Bro. Surendra Shrivastava (Treasurer) informed W.Bro.Shreyas Gumasta. Maharashtra Mandal Raipur has formed a team of 30 members under the Supervision of W.Bro Subodh Toley. They are helping Govt institutions by constantly distributed food packets to daily wages workers and homeless beggars. The project is ongoing starting from 27.03.2020 and will continue till 03.05.2020. Quantity of packets distributed per day is as follows : Morning 250 packets everyday and Evening 150 packets everyday.





MESSAGE OF M.W.BRO.RAJEEV R KHANDELWAL, OSM GRAND MASTER OF GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

My Dear Brother,

Everything at the moment appears to be locked down around us except Freemasonry and our Guiding Principles. It gives me immense pleasure and joy to see that so many of our Brethren, Lodges and the 4 Regions are doing so much work to alleviate the hardship of our fellow human beings.

Reports received of COVID-19 related charity and relief work done by the various Masonic Centres are heart-warming and reflect the truly benevolent character of our Institution and its members. In this difficult time, most of you have risen to the occasion and have exhibited the distinguishing characteristic of every Freemason's heart. Some Centres are slow in picking up the COVID-19 work and that can be for two reasons.

First and foremost, the areas around these Centres are not so badly affected by this deadly virus and hence the requirement of relief work is comparatively less. Second could be that these Centres are shy of picking up the pace. But I feel proud of the Centres and Brethren, who at the cost of risking their lives, are acting as hardship alleviators of the desperately needy citizens. My Brother, nothing

short of this was expected of you and Kudos to you all for rising to the occasion and keeping the Masonic Flag flying high. No words of praise can be sufficient enough for your wonderful work. I am receiving reports of Outstanding Individual work by Masons and their COVID 19 related work that has dwarfed many of our publicized charities. Keep it up my Brethren. Blessed are the Masons who understand that the reason for true prayers is not to have all they want, but to sincerely thank God for all that has made it possible for them to give.

I must inform you all that the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of India Fund of Benevolence have sanctioned an overall amount of Rs.75 Lacs for the COVID-19 related work from the Fund of Benevolence (FOB) and has authorized the Grand Lodge to spend Rs.50 lacs, as of now, between the 4 Regions. The Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge of India has also graciously ratified the resolution authorising the Grand Lodge to spend this money from the FOB. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, in consultation with the Finance Committee Chairman, have devised a Region-wise allocation of this fund as matching grant from the Grand Lodge, which is being communicated to the 4 Regions. I exhort the Brethren to





contribute generously towards COVID 19 related work to your own Lodge, Regional Grand Lodge or the Grand Lodge of India. The Lodges, Regions and the Grand Lodge need all of you to contribute generously towards this noble cause at this crucial juncture. All other Charities are put to the back bench as of now.

My Brethren, regretfully the Grand Lodge has to suspend all Masonic Meetings till 30th June 2020 or till the Government permits social meetings. This was absolutely necessary to safe guard the most precious lives of our Brethren and to calm down the anxiety of their family members. The Grand Lodge will soon come out with a suitable Circular to permit Virtual Meetings by the Lodges and Chapters, subject to certain safeguards.

These will not be Regular Meetings of the Lodges/Chapters, but will be for Administrative purposes and for spreading Masonic Knowledge and interaction on the web. Lodges may also have Video Conferencing as a means of conducting Lodge Committee Meetings, but no physical meeting will be permitted, till the Government gives the green signal.

Brethren, all of you will agree that we have never seen such depressing times in our lifetime and the changing social scenario is itself a big change for all of us to see. All of us are looking forward for good times to come again

and soon. I had once commented that everything changes except change itself. Today, I am reminded of another couplet as follows:

“Nights change, but not dreams, paths change but not destiny, Keep your hopes alive, because tough times definitely will change.”

Remember Brethren, that difficulties in our lives do not come to destroy us, but come to help us realise our hidden potential and power. Who would have imagined that Freemasons across the country will rise as “One” and so boldly face this unseen enemy and become the Knights of the needy and fight against deprivation staring our fellow mortals? Very rarely have we seen the length and breadth of the Masonic fraternity engaging in such extraordinary charity work. It is time that we all simultaneously rise and repeat the words “O Wonderful Masons”.

Brethren, I also exhort you not to pay attention towards the negativity that is sought to be spread by some Banyan Trees or self-styled Bodhi Trees. They can neither digest nor appreciate the good work done by others, but only take pleasure in pointing out shortcomings in others. They are convinced that nobody except themselves can ever be right and for them it is “Their way or the High way”. When knowledge and wisdom is used for spreading negativity, it loses all its charm and becomes a cause of worry.





Beware of such personalities in and around your Centres and continue to do the good work with fresh vigour and enthusiasm. One may or may not be adequately recognised for his good work, but nobody can take away the mental satisfaction from you, which will last forever. Remember God is with you in all your good deeds and will reward you for having obeyed his divine commands. Today is the right time to do God's work actively and with renewed energy. The Grand Lodge is proud of all of you.

Brethren maintain safe physical distance, wear Masks, wash your hands repeatedly, take care of your family and society and become Role Models.
I wish you well.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow. Wash hands after.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Keep 1m distance away from others.

World Health Organization
www.who.int



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