

Vedanta doubles its contribution to 201 crores to fight COVID -19

Mumbai: Vedanta has contributed Rs 101 crores to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund. It will fund up to 200 crores in providing relief measures to communities at large across the country.

This contribution to PM-CARES fund will complement Vedanta's earlier commitment of creating a 100-crore corpus which is catering to three specific areas – Livelihood of the daily wage workers across the nation, preventive health care,

support to all our employees and contract partners across our plant locations

In a bid to minimise the impact on especially the poor and marginalized sections, Vedanta is providing;

Meals for all

- The company has pledged over 10 lac meals across India to the daily wage earners.
- Over 50,000 stray animals will be fed daily for the entire month.

Healthcare Facilities

- Vedanta has tied up with Ministry of textiles to import 23



machines from China for manufacturing of PPE within the country.

- We have collaborated with District Hospitals to provide them with markings, disinfectant sprays, medical equipment, and medicines.
- BALCO Hospital, in New Raipur, Chhattisgarh has set

up isolation wards.

- 100-bed hospital commissioned in Korba, Chhattisgarh.

- Our large Cairn Centre of Excellence in Jodhpur handed over to administration to be converted to a quarantine center.

- In the past one week, Vedanta has provided more than 1 lac plus masks and over 15500 Soaps and sanitizers in rural communities.

- Awareness and sensitization campaigns on prevention of the deadly virus were

conducted across 263 villages.

Employee Safety & Wellness

- To provide 24X7 health care helpline access operated by Apollo Hospital for all employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Measures taken to ensure employee safety with all preventive health-care amenities in place at all locations in collaboration with resp. district administrations.

- Contribution by Employees
- Vedanta employees will donate 1 day's salary which

will be matched by the company to help provide immediate relief measures to local communities through the CM relief funds.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said: "It is our responsibility to make sure that no one dies of hunger.

My appeal to the Government is to provide migrant labourer at least Rs 8,000 every month for the next three months. Govt. has allowed transportation of essential products; it is also important that dhabas & food

stalls on the highways remain open for the truck drivers.

We are more than willing to support any initiative in this regard." Mr. Agarwal added, "It is also important for SMEs and critical industries which contribute to sustain the nation's economy, to work with 25 per cent workforce, as they are essential services and are in the continuous process category and they adhere to all norms of safety and hygiene, as prescribed by the World Health Organization."

Veteran Communist Leader Comrade Dushyan Ojha Passes away, His body donated to SMS Hospital

Veteran communist leader Comrade Dushyant Ojha passed away at the age of 89 years in Jaipur on Tuesday, 14th April, 2020. He was a former member of the central committee of the Communist Party of India and also state secretary who served the party from 1953 till his demise in various capacities. A founder of almost half a dozen public institutions and fronts, he dedicated his life to the uplift of the masses and to build a harmonious society. A very great orator, a prolific writer, poet, journalist, a popular organizer and committed communist Comrade Ojha had a very good relationship with almost all major political leaders of his time in the state. Recently, CM Ashok Gehlot had visited his home to meet him.

Dushyant Ojha was born in 1931 at Shahpura, near Bhilwara. His father Ramesh Chandra Ojha was a freedom fighter at whose residence Prajamandal was constituted in 1938. His mother also went to jail as a congress activist. Since his father participated in protest movements and demonstrations against the British rule the erstwhile king of Shahpura fired him from job and as a result Ramesh Chandra Ojha was forced to support his family by weaving mats and Durries. According to journalist Moolchand Peswani his family was exiled for two years during which they lived in Govindgarh, Sikar and returned to Shahpura after two years. Dushyant Ojha was brought up in this political atmosphere and therefore got involved in activism during his school days. Initially he joined students Congress. When Shiv Charan Mathur was its secretary, he was a member of the executive. In 1946 he hoisted the tricolor on the building of Darbar High School in Shahpura. He also participated in the movement against fee hike in Ajmer. A similar students' protest movement was going on in Gwalior on which police opened fire. There was a protest demonstration in Ajmer against that. Dushyant Ojha participated in that and was arrested in 1948. He was exiled from Ajmer thrice for protesting against the government every time for three months. This hampered his education. After Gandhi ji's assassination there were communal riots in Ajmer. Dushyant Ojha was not happy with the role of Congress leaders and workers during the riots. He found

that communist leaders comrade Pannikar, Hukam Raj Mehta and Komal Kothari were working to establish peace and communal harmony. In March 1949, on the issue of students' interest he boycotted the meeting of Students Congress. Meanwhile he got works of Rahul Sankrityayan, Premchand, Krishna Chander from Shri Komal Kothari. Much influenced by these works and also by the work being done by Komal Kothari, comrade Hukam Raj Mehta and Comrade Pannikar he joined the Communist Party of India in 1949. In Ajmer he started with Dada Potkar in Railway Labour Union. Later he also worked with Kishangarh Textile Labour Union and Kisan Sabha in Asind with Shanker Dev Bharti. He participated in the first open conference of the Communist Party of India in 1950 in Jodhpur.

Dushyant Ojha was elected as the member of the state committee of the CPI in 1953. Next year he became the district secretary of the party's Bhilwara unit. At that time Mohan Lal Sukhadia was the Revenue Minister of the government of Rajasthan. A powerful protest demonstration was held at Jaipur in opposition of tax on cereals. Hundreds of peasants participated in the demonstration from Kapasan, Jashma, Asind, Badnaur and Shahpura in the leadership of Comrade Dushyant Ojha. The same year he led movements of Forest Rights Committee, Mining Labour and Power House Workers' Union.

In 1955 Dushyant Ojha led a contingent of twenty five people from Rajasthan for the liberation of Goa. They participated in a long march from Sawantwadi. It was a 170 Kms long march in which about 5000 people from all over the country were participating. This march is often compared to the Long March in China.

In an interview he mentioned a powerful students' movement held in his guidance in Bhilwara in 1970 which continued for twenty seven days and a demonstration was held defying section 144. Nearly fifty people were arrested in that movement.

He was associated with the activities of Progressive



Writers Association, Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), Indo Soviet Cultural Society and founded a number of organizations like Sampradayaikta Virodhi Committee, Vijay Singh Pathik Smriti Sansthan, Swami Kumarand Smarak Samiti, Akhil Bhartiya Shanti evam Ekjut ta Sangathan etc. He traveled across the state to strengthen the party and its front organizations. He came to Udaipur also quite often. Comrade Meghraj Tawad was a strong pillar of the Communist Party of India in Udaipur.

In 1973 he moved to Jaipur to work for the party at the state level. From 1973 to 1983 he looked after the editing, publication and distribution of the Party's paper Janyug.

He got his degree in Law as a private student and also wrote for prestigious newspapers like Times of India, NavBharat Times, Statesman, Lokwani, etc. As a communist leader he was a member of a number of delegations to countries like Russia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany etc. He travelled more than two dozen times to represent India in these countries.

In an interview he told that CPI supported Congress during emergency because it was the view of the party that the movement led by socialist leaders like Jai Prakash Narayan will ultimately help strengthen Jansangh and the right wing in India. History tells us that this is what happened later. He told that American Imperialism is capturing the world through globalization and market capitalism. He was of the view that the Indian state is also becoming a pawn in the hands of international market and ultimately the United States of America. He believed that an international cooperation of the working class of the world and friends of people could only be the way to fight out the imperial and capitalist forces.

- Dr. H.S.Chandalia

By the Way:

Why Can't we respect women everyday?

It seems to be a stupid question to some of us. First of all I am sorry for writing after a long gap. I was stuck up in Office work from last two months.

One incident reminded me of the chilling horrible night when Nirbhaya was raped brutally by 6 males. I don't know when and where this brutality against women developed in our country. I was awake the whole night in my office when all 4 accused were supposed to be hanged. I could not sleep that night.

Nirbhaya was not alone. Her friend was there but he became helpless when 6 males attacked him. Nirbhaya was raped one by one, not a single human among those monsters thought to save her. They injured her private parts and even doctors were surprised to see her alive in that condition.

Just imagine any of us in that condition!

I feel horrified whenever I have imagined such a crime.

It became a debatable issue that should these criminals be hanged or not? I saw a lady screaming on national television that it is not right to give death penalty to each criminal against one death (that was of Nirbhaya).

Did Nirbhaya die alone that day?

The answer is NO!

We all died when she took her last breath.

I have expressed my feelings on rape many times and I think I have written almost half a dozen articles on rapes.

Aasifa and other small girls were killed because few monsters could not control their desire to sex.

Doctor in Hyderabad was raped and burnt by few men.

Can't we see that rapes have suddenly increased in our country?

6 males raped a woman and crossed every limit. Humanity cried on that day.

16th December was the blackest day when a girl was thrown out on road from a moving bus and nobody stopped after seeing her bleeding and begging for help.

Many of us would have crossed her path on that day but nothing melted our hearts. We became senseless rather shameless and wanted to run away from that place as if the crime was done by us.

Are we not guilty to be a part of her death?

We talk nonsense on every subject. Social media has filled with jokes, idiotic messages and comments. We become serious when crime happens but who will take the responsibility of women who travel alone at nights.

We ignore their problems by easily commenting on their characters and clothes.

Men give speeches on Women's day that they care about women. Some men show their full respect on 8th March.

What happens to those men when a working subordinate female comes forward to tell her problems?

We make fun of her that she has a habit to take advantage of being a female.

Do any of us understand that why she is telling a problem to you?

When you enter in office with crisp and pressed shirts and polished shoes, your wives should be given credit of your look but you never express gratitude in your bedrooms.

Women do everything for their families but her male colleagues and bosses harass her unnecessarily sometimes.

Their ego get hurt so easily that they create fake evidences to prove her down.

Now you may understand the question which I have asked in the beginning.

Please stop pretending that you understand women. Please stop showing your fake emotions to any woman who need your help.

Call her clever, cunning, foolish, stupid or selfish or with any adjective you can felicitate her but please stop giving speeches that you care for women.

You care for your wives and daughters but not your colleagues or subordinates.

Don't give yourself the credit of being an equally strong person who give full space to a woman in office or home.

If you can't understand the pain of a lady who is screaming with pain on

road, you are no more a man.

Go and enjoy your life with your family and give yourself a pat on your back when you fire a female employee for coming late because of her ill child.

Stop singing songs and writing poems on mothers if you can not treat each woman equally.

Don't forget that some day or somewhere our daughters will also be treated by other men the same way.

My advise for every male (who thinks that he is an actual male) is that please close your eyes and let everything happen in front of your naked eyes.

Let the Karma come forward to show you the magical power of the universe.

"From a dust particle to become a giant mountain and again how the rock solid mountain turns into dust" is the destiny of all human beings.

Nirbhaya- "It's good that you left us because world has become ugly. Be safe and healthy in heaven where everyone lives in peace".

We in the Lockdown

We may call it the worst and most unfortunate situation of our life, but it is inevitable. Most of us are discouraged with this Lock down. Many daily wage earners and people associated with varied public service are distressed.

It is tough to stay at Home-keeping away from our livelihood, but nothing is above life, the welfare of our family and Country. Corona would not enter our Home unless we invite this pandemic from outside. Social distancing is must. Those who have always been active, rushing for outdoor works, are facing great difficulty in staying at Home as inmates with no offense. The plight of artists and craft persons is not different.

But, if we see a positive aspect of the scenario, this time has brought extra breathing space to people attached to art and culture.

Stay at Home is not at all, reducing our capacity to work instead is giving us an excursion which we had never experienced before. This significant pause allows us to breathe sufficiently far from the busy life. We have time for self-realization. Review our works, re-strengthen our skills, enrich our knowledge, and do RIYAZ (practice). This applies to all genres of art.

We have slightly more time to follow our favorite activities such as reading books, playing with kids, helping the spouse, gardening, and relaxing, which was out of the scene before. Intelligent people take to maximize the benefit of the situation.

These days I am receiving phone calls from our folk singers, dancers, behrupias, and craft persons who show their concern over the present scenario. I pray for them and wish them a better life. I want Central and State Governments to extend full help to these folk and tribal artists for their survival. These artists are preserving our cultural heritage. I wish after we win over Corona, all of them get outstanding opportunities and get reasonable honorarium all the time.

This COVID-19 has brought a big vacuum in the lives of performing and visual artists. No work and no remuneration. Handicraft artists have no client to buy their artifacts, and performing artists have no concerts.

But knowledgeable artists have improvised their performances to adjust the current demand. They are exhibiting their talent on YouTube, What's App, and other means of the Internet. Their new efforts may not yield much money but would undoubtedly earn them recognition. Most sensitive art lovers are concerned about the mental health of people; hence they are creating special entertaining and educating programs on various aspects of Corona.

Many of my artist friends have started tutorials on theatre, music, dance, yoga, and allied arts. Some institutions have started storytelling sessions; some have come with Quiz and other literary activities. Some NGOs and Art related groups like Bal Manch, Ujjain have come up with online competitions on the "Korona ko harana hai" theme. Many established artists are supporting this event. I hope within a few days, more institutions will come out with similar activities for children and elders. These creative activ-

ities help us to reduce stress and lead a healthy and happy life with a positive attitude. The family discussions will develop a habit of rational thinking, making scope for universal brotherhood.

Another positive aspect I see is that people are eating healthy home food, which is clean, hygienic, and delicious. Some family members voluntarily extend help to the Master Chef. The Lady in-charge of Kitchen never denies the support but often gives opportunities to the male members to try dishes of their choice. The pure homemade food prepared with positive emotions enhances energy.

In the Indian context, usually, a wife is considered as Devi (Goddess), and the husband is called Pati Parmeshwar (God.) Some people are skeptical about it. But trust me, a lot is happening and will happen in these days of Corona crises.

Everyone is attaining Swavalamban (Self-reliance) as the work of maidservant automatically transferred to family members. Both husband and wife will happily settle many household chores with plenty of discussions, innovative techniques, understanding, and vast experience of domestic works during the Corona Lockdown. Both will be equally important and substitute for each other and thus will attain the position of Ardhanareshwara.

An old song, "Dil Dhoondata Hai Phir vahi fursat ke Raat Din." This era brought them full "Fursat" as they have ample time to understand each other and family members. Let us not consider these circumstances as punishment; we should accept them as refreshments. This unexpected togetherness would bring many positive results.

What do we see post lockdown?

Many people would have become poets. New species of lyricists, musicians, video filmmakers, and creative personalities would emerge.

We need to jointly fight the current scene by staying at home and helping the local administration in maintaining law and order. The administration is doing best by providing essential things and protecting us. My big salute to the doctors, nurses, medical staff, health workers, general facilitators, and district Administration who are striving to combat the crises. I pray for all human beings and wish to see that--

There will be peace all around. There will be cleanliness all around, Wellness all around. We, with patience and faith-full confidence, will triumph over on Corona very soon ... And when we Indians conquer Corona, all of us will celebrate another Festival of Freedom.

Ameen..

- Vilas janve

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