

Fighting the Coronavirus Pandemic as a United Country

The unfortunate congregation of the Tablighi Jamaat in Delhi's Nizamuddin at a time when our beloved country is dealing with the menace of Corona virus is absolutely condemnable. When so many mosques across the world, including Mecca have been closed for prayers, the Jamaat should have followed suit. This is a grave lapse of judgement on their part and they must accept full responsibility of this negligence, which posed a great risk to the health and life of not only their own followers but the entire nation.

Equally disturbing are the reports of bad behaviour, non-cooperation with authorities and a breach of quarantine guidelines by a few members of our community. However, relentless targeting by a section of media coupled with a social media overdrive is also a matter of concern. We are living in an era of fake news, and it must be noted that many of these videos and reports are found to be untrue. We appeal to all sections of the national and regional media to report objectively and responsibly.

Fellow citizens, we are posed with a national crisis, we must fight it as a nation and not as individual communities. Creating hatred and division among people at a time when we must put humanity above all will only bring peril to our great country. We must come together as a nation. The Covid-19 virus will not discriminate between religions in its attack. We can only fight this pandemic through national solidarity and scientific planning & execution.

As responsible Muslim citizens of India, we appeal to all members of our community to fully cooperate with authorities and strictly adhere to health advisories and lockdown guidelines. Kindly offer prayers inside the house and do not step out unless absolutely necessary. Try to arrange essential items through online or Government supply system. We are happy to see photos and videos of the relief work that many Madrasas, NGOs and Muslim individuals are doing, especially food distribution among the hungry and stranded people all over the country. We appeal to everyone to help those in need of food, medicines or financial help, irrespective of caste and community.

We also appeal to the religious and spiritual leaders of our community. We need your help to lead the community to health and safety. Please issue regular appeals for maintaining health and lockdown guidelines and to cooperate with the authorities.

We deeply appreciate the call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the religious leaders of all faiths for prayers. We fully stand behind our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through this humanitarian crisis and support him in the fight to save the country from this pandemic. We shall leave no stone unturned to support his call.

Lastly, please remember - United We Stand, Divided We Fall!

Signed by:

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