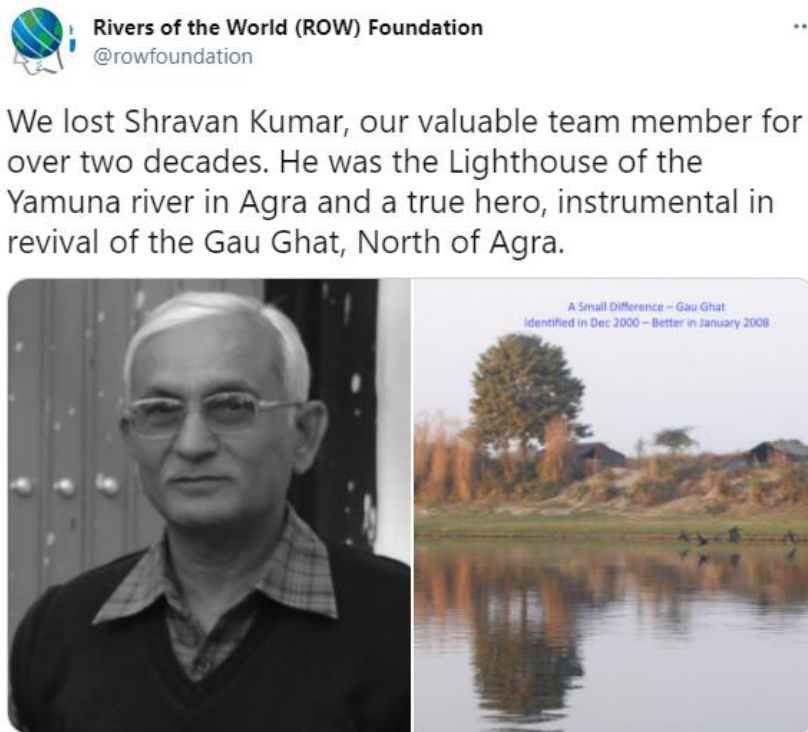


ROW Foundation Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic to India and Philippines (May-June 2021)

Distribution of N-95 Masks, Hand Sanitizers, Gloves, and PPEs

Background:

Due to the sudden increase in COVID-19 cases in India, Philippines and other parts of the globe, the ROW Foundation got alerted about the surge in number of cases. Some of the ROW team members also got infected in Kolkata, Delhi, and Uttarakhand. The most shocking news that followed was the loss of Mr. Shravan Kumar in Agra. He was one of our highly active members for over two decades working on the Yamuna River cleanup effort. We sent a message on twitter on Mr. Shravan Kumar who passed away on May 2nd, 2021. The Twitter link and message is as below:



12:24 PM · May 3, 2021 · Twitter Web App

<https://twitter.com/rowfoundation/status/1389254540193583106>

This came as a shock wave, and we decided to provide some help to stop the spread, save the daily workers, and save others. We conferred with our ROW team in Delhi first. Our active members in Delhi, Uttarakhand, and Kolkata all agreed upon taking a step to protect the daily workers, street vendors and others who make their living by working daily. During the locked down period, the vulnerability of these workers to get infected is quite high and so are the chances of any others they interact with are quite high. According to WHO the India variant, B.1.617.2 is highly transmissible. The ROW foundation decided to provide highly protective masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, and PPEs. free to the daily workers and other vulnerable people to reduce the spread. In Kolkata, our ROW coordinator, Mr. Sucharit Dutta is working with other local groups and arranging to donate food and daily needs of people who are unable to work due to locked down status there now. In Uttarakhand, our active ROW member, Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal is facing a lot of challenges concerning very high number of cases in rural areas and has provided his School building in Ghansali, Uttarakhand for temporarily housing the people/visitors for their stay during the quarantine period of their visit.

Our active member, Mr. Suresh Soman stepped forward with a plan to get the following –

- high quality N-95, 5-layered, reusable masks made there by a vendor who could get hospital grade masks,
- PPEs (high quality), gloves, and hand sanitizers (70% alcohol) from other vendors.

Suresh Soman also undertook the arrangement to ship these items by courier to Rishikesh for Uttarakhand, and Kolkata for local distribution in those areas. Mr. Soman is also arranging to send another package of 25 masks, globes and hand sanitizers to our ROW team in Gokul village, UP (bank of Yamuna)

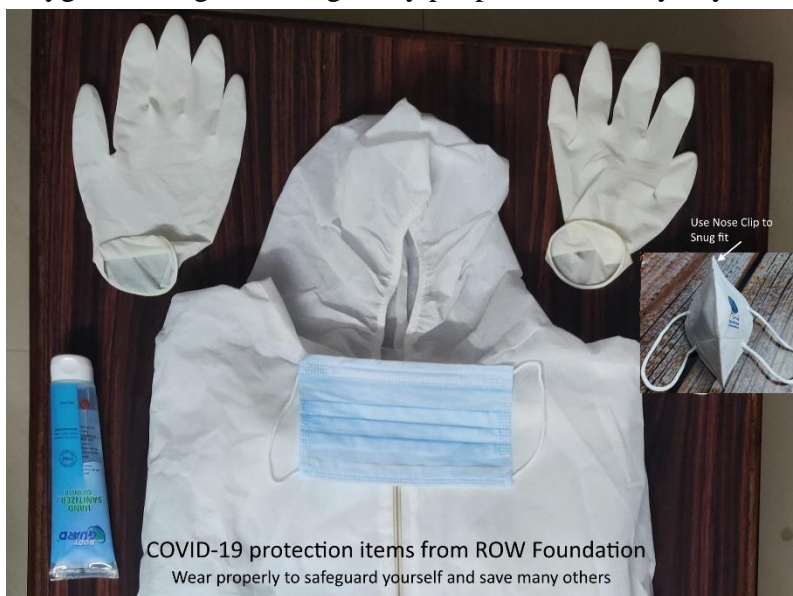
Meantime, we got information on high number of cases in Iloilo, Philippines from our active member, Mr. Noel Hechanova. Checking on the requirements from Iloilo we arranged with Mr. Suresh Soman and a package of 200 N-95 masks, which costs about eight times more in Philippines, are being shipped to Mr. Noel Hechanova for distribution.

Distribution, Pictures and related information

In Delhi – at the height of the pandemic cases and oxygen shortages causing many people to die every day, Mr. Soman and his family arranged for oxygen cylinders and generators, at no cost to some of their known people, whose lives were saved. This was a great support and humane action by Mr. Soman and his family

After the masks and other items arrived, Suresh Soman has been reaching out early AM to many daily workers at the ground level (e.g. street vendors, hard-working policemen, ragpickers, Dhabawala, plus many others) and proving them free with N-95 masks, gloves and hand sanitizers and explaining the way to use them properly and the critical need at this time of COVID-19 pandemic.

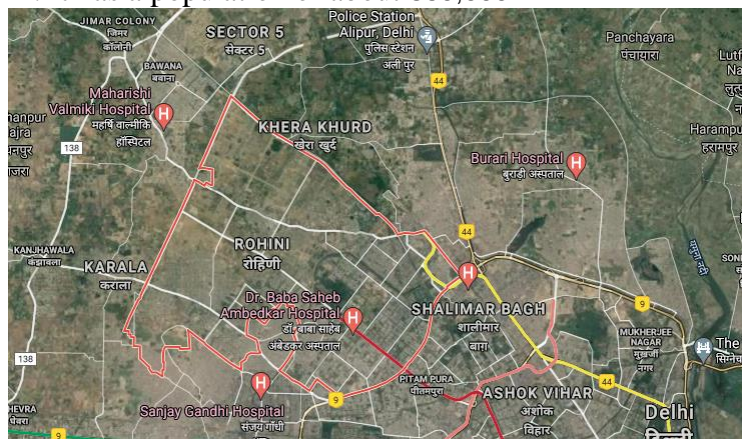
Some of the pictures below will tell the story –



Suresh with the N-95, 5-layered mask

Suresh Soman with Masks and full PPE outfit.

Delhi (Rohini Area): Rohini is a residential city in North West Delhi in India. It was the first sub-city project of Delhi Development Authority. Rohini is one of the 12 zones administered under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. It has a population of about 860,000.



Sonu's upside down mask was corrected by telling him and cautioning others.



Mask and hand sanitizers to street vendors Sonu, Ravi Singh, Pintu, and Monu (May 27, 2021)



Mr. Golu,- Vegetable vendor in N. Delhi area
(May 27, 2021)



Kajal Kumari – Coconut seller – N. Delhi area



Pradeep - local vendor (May 27, 2021)



Rajesh



Ram (car cleaner)

Rajesh - daily cleaner (May 28, 7:55 am)

Ram – car cleaner



Beat team

Hard working street patrols – Delhi police They were glad to receive the ROW protective masks (June 3, '21)



Rekha (Maid)

Rekha -



sanjeev

Sanjeev



Rana

Rana – fast food/dhaba (June 3, '21)



Famous Dhaba wala – was happy to receive mask and sanitizer (June 3, 2021)

In Kolkata (Birati area)



Birati, Kolkata – ROW student volunteers – happy with N-95 masks (May 29, 2021)



Rudra Saha – ROW team, Kolkata



Gourav Kar – small shop owner (June 4, 2021)

....[More information and pictures forthcoming](#)

In Uttarakhand (Rishikesh and Ghansali)



Sudhir Nautiyal, ROW Coordinator, Uttarakhand – ROW N-95 masks and other supplies acquired locally for distribution.

....[More information and pictures forthcoming](#)