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IIT-Gn initiative helps over 300

As the news of the Kerala calamity broke, the Malayali community across the globe found ways to reach out and help. While the assistance in cash and kind was possible, the bigger challenge was to locate people in need for airlifting and emergency medical care. A group of students from IIT-Gandhinagar decided to track distress messages on social media — contacting persons and talking them to verify details — and to prepare an exhaustive digital record, including the number of persons at a specific location. These details were shared with rescue teams. Through the initiative, the student group of about 30 could reach out and help 315 persons TNN

Solidarity brings students together

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Onam is a major celebration for the large community of Malayali students in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in institutions such as IIM-Ahmedabad, CEPT, NID, IIT-Gandhinagar, DAIICT, PDP, and GNLU. They usually mark the week in the run-up to the festival and the last day with sadya (feast), pookalam (flower rangoli), and traditional attire of pattu sari/settu mundu for girls and mundu for boys.

But this year is different for the community. "Every year, we have an elaborate celebration with dance, music, and food," said Vinaya Hari, a postgraduate student from IIT-Gandhinagar. "We had started preparations for this year's Onam, but when the news started pouring in from Kerala about the scope of the calamity the events were cancelled. We have so far collected Rs 1 lakh which will go to the Kerala CM Relief Fund (CMRF)."



Aathira Sathish Kumar, a postgraduate student at CEPT University, said that there will be no major celebration on the campus this year. "We have collected funds which we are donating to the CMRF," she said.

Institutes such as IIM-Ahmedabad have appealed to the current and former students to support the cause by donating to the CMRF on their internal platforms.

Students on NID's Ahmedabad campus had put up posters in and around the cam-

pus. Apart from students and faculty, people living near the institutes have donated in cash and kind. The money and goods have been sent to Kerala, said community members.

"MICA has its social service wing, Jagriti, through which we intend to collect over Rs 1 lakh for the CMRF," said Jayneel Modi, a MICA student. "The cultural committee had intended to host a feast for Onam but with the cancellation of the event, we have requested the community members to donate for the cause."

Title 1: IIT-Gn initiative helps over 300

Title 2: Solidarity brings students together

Source: The Times of India (Pg. no. 2)

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/solidarity-brings-students-together/articleshow/65536157.cms>

Date: 25-08-2018