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Battle nCoV: Mata Amritanandamayi Devi math donates Rs 13 cr

Bengaluru, Apr 13 (UNI) Mata Amritanandamayi Math on Monday announced that they are donating Rs 13 crores to help combat and contain COVID-19 as well as to provide relief to those physically, mentally and economically affected by the virus.

Moreover, it will provide free care to COVID-19 patients at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (Amrita Hospital) in Kochi.

According to statement issued here, Rs 10 crores will go to the Central Government's PM CARES Fund, and Rs 3 crores will go to the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund.

"Seeing the entire world hurting and crying in pain, my heart is aching deeply," Amma said in the statement issued by the Math. "Let us all pray for the souls who have succumbed to this pandemic, for the mental peace of their families and friends, for the peace of the world, and for God's grace."

At Amma's request Amrita University and Amrita Hospital have set up a mental-health hotline (0476 280 5050), where people who are feeling stressed, anxious or depressed due to the pandemic and its ramifications can call to get free support. Last week, Amma had publicly requested doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists to set aside time to provide counselling. "Counselling is a service needed at this time," Amma said. "Please consider this as an appeal from Amma to doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists. Whether you are believers or not, set aside one or two hours every day to provide free counselling for those who need it."

Through its deemed university, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrita University), the Math also has a interdisciplinary team researching ways to produce low-cost scalable medical masks, gowns and face-protection visors, as well as ventilators, rapid-setup isolation wards, units for sterilizing medical waste, and IoT means for the remote monitoring of quarantined patients. The team includes more than 60 faculty from the fields of medicine, nanoscience, AI, big data, sensor-manufacturing and material sciences.

Under Amma's direction, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math has provided more than Rs 500 crore in disaster relief since 2005. This has included the provision of financial support, household items, free healthcare and even construction of new homes, and others.

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