



PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

Bessastaðir,  
4 May 2021

His Excellency Ram Nath Kovind  
President of India  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi – 110 004

*Your Excellency*

During these dangerous and difficult days in your country, I send you and the people of India my best wishes of support and solidarity. The news we hear are alarming indeed. However, I am confident that the Indian authorities will use all means at their disposal to help those in need.

I have been informed that the Icelandic authorities are now preparing some kind of material support to your country which will hopefully provide some help to those in need.

The virus that has so disrupted our daily lives – and sadly taken so many lives – is a dangerous foe. While states must base their response on their own needs and estimates, the more unity we can show, the better.

Here in Iceland we owe our healthcare staff a debt of gratitude. They have performed well in demanding circumstances. Compassion and perseverance have also been vital, and no less important is the impact of scientific knowledge. The strength of science will be decisive in our victory against the virus, just as it has previously helped us overcome other illnesses and epidemics.

I remember with affection your visit to Iceland in 2019. Journeys between countries have all but stopped, and curfews or severe restrictions on people's movements within states have been in place for well over a year now. But this setback will not last. Let us look forward to a future where free citizens can converge and cooperate, travel and enrich each other's lives, to the benefit of whole humankind.

I extend to you, your family and the people of India my best wishes.

*Guðni Th. Jóhannesson*

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