



British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

BAPIO announces strategy to support Covid-struck India

With nearly 200,000 fatalities, 350,000 confirmed cases per day and almost 18 million cases so far, India is in the grip of a medical emergency, as has never been witnessed before. The pandemic in India affects our members directly, because many have either lost family members and friends, or seen them fall ill with the virus. Some of our members would like to travel to India to be with friends and family, or are currently unable to return to work in the NHS because of travel restrictions. Indian doctors form the second largest in numbers in the UK after British qualified doctors and so there are significant numbers affected indirectly or directly by this second wave in India.

We have sent out a message of support to the Government of India and our medical colleagues, and we have pledged our support to tackle this dreadful disease.

BAPIO announced today three ways by which we have extended our support:

1. We have set up a 'Virtual Hub', for tele-triaging with colleagues and making clinical decisions speedier. We are providing support to ensure that the backlog of pathology tests and radiological investigations such as X-Rays and CT scans can be reported without delays.
2. We have teamed up with the NHS and the High Commission of India to source and supply India with Oxygen, Oxygen concentrators, ventilators and medicines, as required.
3. In partnership with APNA NHS, DAUK and a charity, Akshaya Patra UK, we have set up a fund with an ambitious target of £500,000 to purchase equipment and to feed the needy in India.

In addition, we have written to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, to urge him to provide full support at this time of crisis.

This is a humanitarian crisis of huge proportions. BAPIO will work with multiple agencies in the UK and India to meet our ambitious objectives.

Dated 26 April 2021

- END -

Notes for Editors

British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) is a non-political, national, voluntary medical organisation that supports members and other healthcare professionals through education, training, policy making, and advocacy work. Since its inception in 1996, BAPIO has actively promoted the principles of diversity and equality. Over the years the Association has grown in stature and influence. It is represented through active Divisions covering all the English Regions as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is now one of the largest organisations of its type in the country. BAPIO is committed to ensuring that the NHS provides the best patient outcomes. By promoting professional excellence and leadership, BAPIO adds value by enhancing the skills of the medical workforce. BAPIO also contributes to the cause of promoting access to better health care globally and responds to humanitarian crises by aiding victims of natural disasters across the world.

President: Dr Ramesh Mehta, OBE

Secretary: Prof Parag Singhal

Corporate Office: The Chapel, Trinity Gardens, 9-11 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2BP UK

Chairman: Dr JS Bamrah CBE

Treasurer: Dr Arvind Shah

T: +441234212879

Email: admin@bapio.co.uk



BAPIO



@BAPIOUK



British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin



Further information

Please contact:

BAPIO admin

Tel 01234212879

email admin@bapio.co.uk

President: Dr Ramesh Mehta, OBE

Secretary: Prof Parag Singhal

Corporate Office: The Chapel, Trinity Gardens, 9-11 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2BP UK

Chairman: Dr JS Bamrah CBE

Treasurer: Dr Arvind Shah

T: +441234212879

Email: admin@bapio.co.uk



BAPIO



@BAPIOUK