



Press Release

In a virtual ceremony today, Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia formally handed over, on behalf of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi and the Government & people of India, the gift of essential medical supplies in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic to H.E. the Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, Dr. Julio Daniel Mazzoleni Insfrán.

The gift consisted of nearly 5 tons of medicines containing 200,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine, 13,900 Metronidazole Infusion, 14,000 Intravenous Paracetamol, 14,000 Ceftriaxone and 13,600 Cefotaxime. The medicines had arrived Buenos Aires enroute to Asuncion, Paraguay. Ambassador thanked the efforts of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, and the Paraguayan Embassies in New Delhi and Buenos Aires for their support and coordination making it possible for the consignment of medicines to traverse over 15,000 km from New Delhi to Asuncion.

During a telephonic conversation on 30 April 2020 between the Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, H.E. Ambassador Antonio Rivas Palacios, the former had offered to provide this gift to assist Paraguay in its fight against the pandemic.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia stated that the grave health and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic had created an unprecedented crisis for the whole world. A crisis of this magnitude called for coordinated and unified response from the entire global community. In this regard, India stood committed to supporting its friends and partners in the collective fight against the pandemic.

Ambassador also conveyed his admiration for the actions taken by the Paraguayan Government to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the same time offered his deepest condolences for those Paraguayan nationals who had unfortunately succumbed to the disease.

He also highlighted the cordial and friendly relations between the two friendly countries. He recalled the official visit of the Vice President of India H.E. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu to Paraguay that provided significant momentum to further strengthening of bilateral ties.

Next year in 2021, India and Paraguay will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries. In this regard, Ambassador hoped that by that time the pandemic would be over, enabling both countries to celebrate the special occasion in a befitting manner.

Buenos Aires; 25 August 2020