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## MASK MAN OF INDIA

*Tatsamyak Manu*  
*Katihar, Bihar, India*

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It's talk about February 2020. I was returning home after taking an exam from Patna, the capital of Bihar, India; the train for which the seat was reserved was Capital Express. The train arrived at 11 pm and I sat on the pre-arranged 'seat', which was the lower berth, to go to my destination. Even on that date 'Corona' was increasing in the country spreading its illusion, viruses had also arrived in Patna, only to be proved, but I started applying 'mask' looking foresight. In the compartment where I was sitting, I saw that no passenger was wearing a mask, not only in that compartment but in the entire bogies. I sat asking fellow passenger sitting in the front seat - 'Has Corona gone, sir? You haven't put on a mask!'

Whether it was due to night time or due to other reasons, in response he said to me- 'Hey brother, this is nothing Corona-Vorona! and if you are so uncomfortable with not wearing my mask, then give me a mask !'

I did not have an extra mask at that time, apart from the one I was wearing, so I did not go ahead and slept on my seat with saying 'sorry' and good night ! Sleep was broken in the early morning when third gender started asking for money forcibly. I refused and asked them to go ahead, but at the same time the paper soap sellers came and I bought soap from them, then saw that they were selling facemasks as well. I bought a mask from him for 55 rupees without any hesitation, so that I could give it to my fellow passenger in the front seat, as a gift, as a 'mask' he asked for me at night! Truly, his words had inspired me and touched my heart.

It was now 5 o'clock in the morning, but I could not see the passengers in front. I thought he must have gone to routine work that is toilet room, but even after a long time when he did not come to his seat, I asked the co-traveller of the upper berth that I am not seeing this brother, then he said that he got down 2 hours ago.

I had taken that mask for the same brother, but gave the mask to the co-traveller of the upper berth and said- 'Brother, wear a mask. Corona outbreak is on the rise !' He said 'thank you' while taking the mask, but other passengers started seeing me that I would give the mask to them too, whereas I had bought this mask in front of all of them by spending 55 rupees and however it is not possible for all those passengers to buy it. But it was decided in my mind that from my accumulated amount and myself, I would distribute free masks among the needy.

In any case, a few hours behind the scheduled time, the train halted at the destination junction for about 20 minutes, By the time I came home that day, this thing was running loudly in my mind that what would happen if the outbreak of corona increased, because there is no desire among people to buy masks by themselves, nor to wear masks. Is there awareness?

At home, I shared the train incident and my thoughts with family members about distributing masks for free. It would have taken a lot of money to buy masks, but the will of myself and family members strengthened the strength of mind, as well as sewing machines at home came in handy at such times and we all put together hundreds, then thousands and then millions of masks. And this work continues uninterruptedly. Along with this, gradually lakhs of masks were also bought. In the

first few days, we family members, following physical distance, distributed several thousand masks for free!

First public curfew, then part-by-part lockdown also started, but while going to and from the market, in the nearby village Market, sometimes in crowded areas, then near the handcarts, sometimes near the Jhalmudhiwalas, sometimes Distributing masks for free in grocery stores, sometimes to courier boys, and sometimes to quarantine centers in schools or hospitals.

At the end of the year 2020, due to the election environment of Bihar Legislative Assembly, as soon as people started to realize that now the wave of corona is decreasing, people have stopped wearing masks, despite this I have created public awareness for this. The campaign went on and distributed free masks for a few hours of service every day. Now I have started distributing medicated masks free of cost as well.

Also I started distributing free masks wherever I went like a traveler even outside my own city and my own state. I distributed free masks in many districts of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar, such as Katihar, Purnia, Bhagalpur, Samastipur, Patna, Saharsa etc. But it is said that if those who do good work will be praised, then there will be criticism too ! Don't call it criticism, call it condemnation. People called my actions only madness. When many people used to go to give masks and tell them to avoid 'Corona', they would all say that Corona has run away, then why are you working crazy, wasting time and money ! Many people would take masks to wear in front and sell them in a shop next door, many people would have taken many masks due to getting them for free, then some people would take masks from me and throw them in front of me ! Many people would have asked strangely that they do not like masks of such color, so they need a mask of such color! Many women say that applying a mask will hide the makeup!

On the other hand, one day when I went to the market to distribute free 'masks', a fruit seller gave me the name 'Maskman' after seeing my work and from that day my friends, relatives and people of the society gave me the same name. Started calling from i.e Maskman. It's been 18 months now....I still distribute free masks every day. On Republic Day 2021, I distributed more than 51 thousand masks for free in just 8 hours, due to which I have received mails from the editor to get my name in 'Limca Book of Records'. At the same time, this achievement along with my work and record in 'Bihar Book of Records' and 'Record Holder Republic, UK' has been registered record as 'Maskman of India' !



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