

Gulf countries reach out to flooded Kerala

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NEW DELHI

The United Arab Emirates has formed an emergency committee under the leadership of the Emirates Red Crescent to help victims of the floods in Kerala.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the support extended by the UAE amid reports that similar initiatives are being taken by Saudi Arabia, Oman and private individuals in the Gulf region.

“President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has instructed the formation of a national emergency committee to provide relief assistance to people of Kerala,” a statement from the Embassy of UAE declared.

UAE’s response followed a message of condolence to Mr. Modi from the ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed

bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

There are reports that similar support is under way from Saudi Arabia. “On behalf of ourselves as well as the people and government of Saudi Arabia, we express our deepest sorrow and offer condolences to you as well as to the families of the deceased and to the people of India,” King Salman of Saudi was quoted by the Saudi News Agency.

Oman is also expected to send special flights carrying essential commodities and medical supplies to Kerala. Sultan of Oman Qaboos bin Said Al Said has instructed the Royal Oman Air Force to fly special flights from Muscat to Thiruvananthapuram to provide relief.